



Iontaobhas Scoileanna Éamainn Rís
Edmund Rice Schools Trust

E-SÍOL

Summer 2026



Let every moment feel like a holiday and every sunset like a masterpiece.



Fáilte.

As I come to the end of my time as Chief Executive of the Edmund Rice Schools Trust, I want to take this opportunity to speak directly to you — to our students, our teachers and staff, and to parents and guardians across our school communities.

To our students: thank you. You are the reason our schools exist. Your energy, curiosity, creativity and compassion bring life to our classrooms and corridors each day. It has always been our mission to ensure that you are at the centre of everything we do — that you are supported, challenged, encouraged and cared for in environments where you can grow not only academically, but personally and spiritually. Seeing you flourish in vibrant, inclusive schools has been one of the greatest privileges of my role.

To our teachers, school leaders and all staff: I offer my sincere gratitude for your extraordinary commitment. You do far more than deliver curricula. You nurture potential, build confidence, model values and create school communities where every young person is welcomed and respected. Through your dedication, the Edmund Rice ethos is not simply spoken about — it is lived every day in classrooms, on sports fields, in pastoral care, and in the countless small interactions that shape young lives.

To parents and guardians: thank you for the trust you place in our schools. Your partnership is essential in ensuring that our schools remain strong, supportive communities of learning. The shared commitment between home and school is what enables us to offer an education that is truly holistic and inclusive.

I also wish to thank those schools that contributed articles to this, and previous editions of our network magazine. Your willingness to share your initiatives, achievements and reflections strengthens the bonds across our network and reminds us of the richness and diversity of what is happening in our schools every day.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the dedicated staff of the Trust. Their professionalism and quiet determination to support schools and to promote Catholic education in the Edmund Rice tradition have been central to the strength and coherence of our network.

It has been an honour to serve this community. I leave with deep gratitude for all that you do to ensure that our schools remain places of faith, learning, inclusion and hope — true communities where every student is known, valued and supported.

Thank you for your commitment, your partnership and your faith in the mission we share.

Gerry Bennett
Chief Executive.

Rice College Westport

Gaelbhrtach

What an outstanding achievement for our First Year students!

Our School Principal, Michael Rabbette, was delighted to receive our school's first ever Gaelbhrtach flag as part of our involvement in the Gaelbhrtach Irish language incentive scheme for 2025/26.

Congratulations to the Gaelbhrtach committee members and to Ms. Healy (Gaelbhrtach Co-ordinator).

Beatha Teanga í a labhairt.



Technology Award Winners STEM Success at ATU SciFest@College

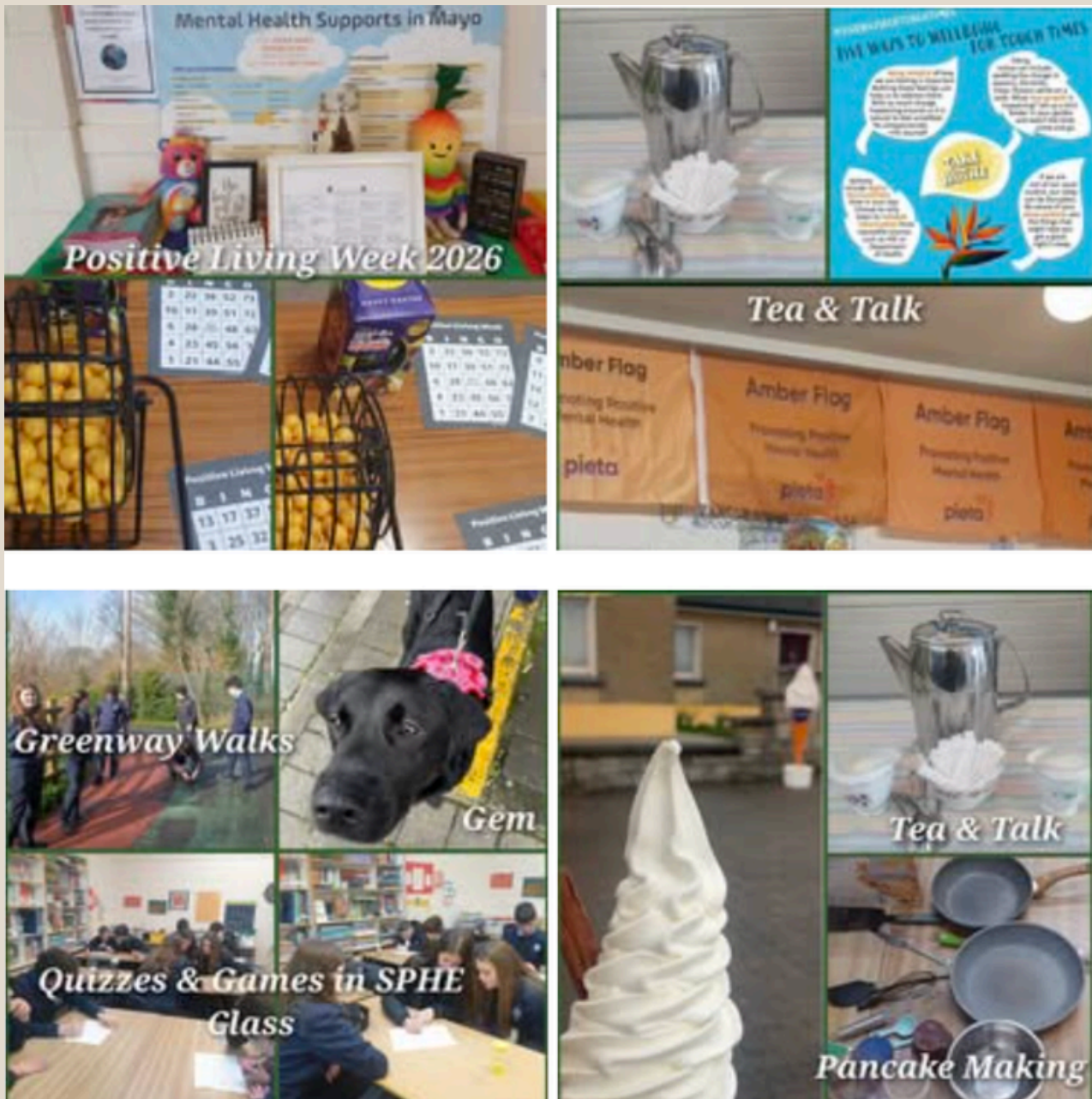
A huge congratulations to Sarah Cheatle, Mia Reid, and Katie Daly (Class 1E) on winning the Technology Award at ATU Galway @scifest4stem today.

The girls developed an innovative app called MotivateMe—a digital school journal designed to replace traditional paper journals. The app helps students balance schoolwork and extracurricular activities by organising homework tasks and supporting wellbeing tracking and reducing paper waste.

They have dedicated over 12 weeks to developing this project, with fantastic support from the team @teenturn and their teacher Ms Costello.

We are incredibly proud of their achievement—the future is bright for these talented young women in STEM!





Positive Living Week 2026

Our annual Positive Living Week took place in March. This week gives our school community an opportunity to focus on positive mental health and wellbeing. The theme of the week was "Keep your face to the sunshine and shadows will fall behind you". During the week we hosted various activities, discussions, games, guest speakers and workshops which focused on promoting positive mental health.

Our TY Wellbeing team launched the week by creating a display area and they delivered a sweet treat to everyone. Our Student Council organised a successful raffle in aid of Mayo Mental Health Association with some wonderful prizes. The Student Council presented the cheque to Jenna from MMHA when she visited the school to facilitate the Breathe programme with our 2nd year students.

Our Wellbeing classes played games of bingo in the Assembly Area while our TY students continued with rehearsals for their musical "Rock of Ages". Students completed Greenway Walks, mindfulness colouring activities and played table tennis. We held an Odd Socks Day in aid of Down Syndrome Ireland (Mayo Branch), Music Generation visited the school to facilitate a day of drumming workshops and we ended the week with a premier of "Forever Falling" which was written, directed by and starred in by our talented 3rd year students. It was an enjoyable week for our school community as we took some time to focus on ourselves and we learned some new techniques to help improve our wellbeing.

TY Fishing Trip

This Year our TY Students had the opportunity to take part in a fishing and water safety module. Students spent 10 weeks learning the art of fly tying and fly casting with the help of professional APGAI instructor Frank Reilly along with Inland Ireland Fisheries officers.

After the 10 weeks students got to test their skills with 2 trips to Laois Angling Centre accompanied by Frank Reilly and Inland Fisheries Ireland officers. The trips were hugely successful with students really enjoying their time by the water. All students were lucky enough to hook and catch what was many of their first fish. In total 202 fish were caught during the 2 trips.

A big thank you to Frank Reilly and all Inland fisheries Ireland officers, Ronan Cusack, Adrian Gorman, Pdraig Kerrigan and Kevin Kerrigan for supplying the fishing and safety equipment on the day as well as providing their expertise and guidance to the students on the day.

Westport Trout Angling club who are celebrating their 100th year this year also supported the initiative by providing a contribution towards the module and sponsoring a number of prizes such as rods and reels for students over the 2 days. This was greatly appreciated and will hopefully lead to the next generation of young anglers taking up the sport.

The module was an extremely worthwhile experience for all involved and allowed students to immerse themselves in the nature and wildlife that we are so lucky to be surrounded by. It is a fantastic skill for our young budding anglers to carry into the future. Promoting time in nature is something we here at Rice College believe is paramount to the holistic development of our student's wellbeing, something that can often be lost in today's digital age. We hope to continue the initiative next year and into the future.



Edmund Rice Memorial Mass 5th of May 2026

On Tuesday, May the 5th we celebrated Blessed Edmund Rice Day in Rice College Westport. Our annual Memorial Mass was held in the Memorial Garden on Tuesday where we listened to beautiful singing, instrumental music, prayers and reflections giving us an opportunity to remember all the loved ones who are no longer with us. We remember Blessed Edmund Rice, on his feast day, and we thank Leo Hogan, ERST, for making the journey to celebrate with us making it a very special celebration for all in Rice College Westport.







Rice College Ennis



Rice College Ennis to Missionvale South Africa

Two students and one staff member from Rice College, Ennis were among a group representing five schools who travelled to Missionvale, South Africa, with Ennis Parish. The trip reflected the values of the Edmund Rice Schools Trust (ERST), focusing on service, justice and compassion.

Missionvale, on the outskirts of Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth), faces high levels of poverty and unemployment. At the centre of the community is the Missionvale Care Centre, founded in 1988 by Irish nun Sister Ethel Normoyle. The centre now supports thousands of people each year by providing food, education, healthcare and other essential services.

During the trip, the group worked in several areas of the centre. In the food bank, they helped prepare and distribute meals to local people. In the clinic, they assisted with basic tasks and observed the delivery of healthcare in a community with limited access to medical services.



They also spent time in the local school, supporting classroom activities and interacting with students. In the "Swap Shop," they helped organise items and saw how children exchange recyclable materials for essentials such as clothes and school supplies, promoting both sustainability and dignity.

The experience gave the group a greater understanding of global inequality and the importance of helping others. It also highlighted the strong sense of community and resilience in Missionvale.

Sharing this story through Síol aims to encourage other students to become more aware and involved in supporting those in need.

A Year to Remember for Rice College Football

Our Senior Footballers made history this season, winning the Munster Final and an All-Ireland Semi Final but just fell short of the line in their 1st all Ireland Football Final the school has ever been in. The captain of the team was The Banners Eoin Fitzpatrick. The Munster Final was on the 6th of February where the lads took on Causeway Comprehensive, Kerry in UL. The lads fought through rain and sun that day to eventually come out on the sunny side after beating Causeway 3-10 to 2-11.

The All-Ireland Semi Final was the next hurdle on the 28th of February playing against St Brendan's Belmullet. It was a very tight game with Rice being up by one point at halftime. The lads kept up the intensity and beat Belmullet 2-10 to 2-9 in a very tense and nail-biting final quarter.

The Final was where the lads had their last hurdle of the year playing against Larcy College, Clones Co Monaghan.



Clare Abbey

On Tuesday 21st April we were fortunate to have a beautiful bright day to head off on our walk to explore Clare Abbey. We were also very fortunate to have the company of our Bishop Fintan Monahan on our 8km trail and Fr. Tom Ryan before he had to return to his duties. While in the Abbey Bishop Fintan gave us a history of the Abbey from a 12th Century Augustinian monastery to a structure under the OPW today. We are so appreciative to have had the company of our Bishop and all his knowledge and expertise in local history. We wish him well on his next marathon challenge.



National Young Journalist Competition

Congratulations to Aran Buma (TY) who won 2nd prize in the Opinion Section of the National Young Journalist Competition. His award-winning piece entitled "The Three Lions v England" explored the theme of racism in sport, and is available to view online on the Young Journalist website.

The Opinion section was a particularly competitive one, with hundreds of entries from schools nationwide. These entries were judged by a panel of journalists and editors from national newspapers, so Aran's achievement is truly an amazing feat. Well done and congratulations to Aran, the future is bright!



Erasmus+ at Rice College

Rice College embarked upon their first ever Erasmus+ trip recently, travelling to Köln and Langenfeld, Germany. During their stay there, they met up with their partner school, Konrad Adenauer Gymnasium (Langenfeld), where the Irish and the German students were placed in small groups to carry out a series of tasks, using QR codes.



The students also toured the world-famous Köln Cathedral, the Lindt Chocolate Museum, Bayer Leverkusen Stadium, Köln Zoo, Phantasialand ate at the Hard Rock Café as well as completing a guided walking tour of Langenfeld. Students also enjoyed shopping on Köln's famous Hohe Strasse! This was a valuable opportunity for students to experience another culture and for them to practice their language skills. Thanks to Ms Handley, Ms Power, Ms Murray and Mr Clohessy, without whom this tour would not have been possible.



Support for Fr. Joy

On May 7th the Rice College school community gathered to show their support for Fr. Joy. Students shared their appreciation by creating works of art in the form of greeting cards, a plaque from woodwork students and delicious baked goods. Fr. Joy reminded us of the importance of forgiveness and compassion. All values of our ethos. It was a very special and sincere morning with exceptional students in attendance. Thank you to all who contributed and to Mrs. Bríd Ronan for making it all happen.



Francis Street CBS Primary School



What a Year!

What an incredible year we have had in Francis Street. We welcomed 20 new junior infants to our Franner family in September.

One of the highlights of our year was when our 3rd and 4th classes were invited to the inauguration of the new President of Ireland at Dublin Castle. President Connolly even wore clothes to match our Franner uniform. An amazing spectacle and an honour for our children to be able to witness it.



Spiorad An Chumainn Award

Cumann na mBunscol Cluichí Ceannais Peile 2025 Páirc an Chrócaigh



Francis Street CBS

The return of Francis St. CBS to Croke Park, after 24 years, was a considerable achievement. This small, city-centre school, with no grass training facilities, has a long and proud history in Cumann na mBunscol and victories in both hurling and football in Croke Park.



For the first time in 25 years our school reached the Cumann na mBunscoil finals in Croke Park. The fathers of some of the boys on team represented our school in that final 25 years ago. The boys were worthy champions with one of our sixth class boys scoring 6 goals in the final and receiving the Dean Rock scorer Award.

Allianz 

Gradam Dean Rock

Top Scorer

**Cumann na mBunscol
Cluichí Ceannais Peile 2025
Páirc an Chrócaigh**

'Here is a footballer that just needs an inch to make hay. And to make the net sing. He is so composed and clinical when even a quarter-chance falls from the tree. Goals are his favourite currency. And any time he got the ball, the bells began to ring.' Reuben scored 6-2
Match report by Niall Scully



Reuben Ward
Francis Street CBS.



We are delighted to maintain our links with CBS Monkstown and look forward to the visit of their TY students every Tuesday. They truly are remarkable role models for our children and great supporters of our school.

We are so fortunate to have a longstanding link with The UCD Law Department. Our 6th class boys love participating in the moot trial program with the UCD students.

It is hard to believe that we have now been co-ed for 5 years. Next year we will only have 5th and 6th class as our remaining all boys classes.



We had a big push on healthy eating this year and we were delighted to have past pupil and current St Pats and Irish u17 footballer Joe Byrne in to talk with our classes. Joseph spoke about nutrition, mindset, sleep and the importance of recovery between games.



Congratulations to Abid in 4th class for becoming one of youngest ever school chess champions!!



Our Student Council continue to support local mental health charity for young people in Dublin 8 namely Shannon's Hopeline. Our SNA Stevo will be doing a sky dive to raise funds for this important local charity on June 20th!!

Oatlands College - Part 1



The Oatlands College pilgrimage to Taizé took place from Monday May 4th to Friday 8th. This was the culmination of weeks of preparation, community effort, and anticipation among students, staff, and parents. In the lead-up to departure, the group undertook a sponsored Pier-to-Peer walk from Oatlands College to Dún Laoghaire, an event that not only raised funds but also strengthened the sense of shared purpose among participants. Mr. Collins, Mr. Ellis and Paula Harmon from the Parents Council delivered a presentation to parents, outlining the aims of the trip, the rhythm of life in Taizé, and the values of simplicity, community, and reflection that define the experience. This preparation set the tone for a journey rooted in openness and curiosity. Moreover, at this meeting bags containing the itinerary, polo shirts, Irish flag lapel pins and luggage tags were distributed to each student to help them prepare for this important trip. Fr. Joe Mullan from the local Parish came to the meeting (despite this being his day off) and provided some words of much needed encouragement to all who attended our meeting.

The adventure began early on Bank Holiday Monday with a dawn flight to Lyon. Spirits were high, but upon arrival the group discovered that their coach had not arrived to collect them. Rather than allowing this setback to dampen the mood, the students and teachers embraced the unexpected opportunity. Bags in tow, they travelled into Lyon city centre for a brief detour, taking in the atmosphere of one of France's most vibrant cities. After a few hours, transport was finally arranged, and the group continued on to Taizé, arriving just in time for supper and the evening prayer service.

Life in Taizé follows a distinctive rhythm, punctuated by morning, midday, and evening prayer. Each service includes a profound moment of silence, offering space for reflection, stillness, and personal contemplation. The Taizé brothers lead the community in meditative chants sung in multiple languages, creating an atmosphere that is both peaceful and deeply moving. Throughout the week, students were assigned practical duties, including helping in the kitchen, serving meals, and washing dishes. These tasks, simple yet meaningful, reinforced the Taizé ethos of shared responsibility and humble service.

Midway through the week, the group travelled to Cluny for an authentic French restaurant experience. After several days of the simple Taizé meals, this outing was warmly welcomed and gave students a taste of local culture and cuisine. Another highlight of the trip was a group meeting with Brother Jean-Marie, who had recently visited Ireland. This conversation offered students the chance to ask questions about the Taizé community, its mission, and its global outreach.

By the end of the week, the students had not only participated in the daily life of Taizé but had also immersed themselves in a unique environment of prayer, community, and international friendship. The experience encouraged them to slow down, reflect, and engage with others in a spirit of openness. Overall, the visit to Taizé was an enriching and memorable journey, one that left a lasting impression on every participant. Sincere thanks to the Board of Management, our Principal Caroline Garrett, the Parents Council and local Parish, especially Fr. Joe Mullan for supporting our pilgrimage to Taizé.

Noel J. Collins

Retreat/Pilgrimage Co-ordinator

If you are considering bringing a group of students to Taizé, you can contact me at the following email address: noel.collins@oatlands.net







St Vincent's Primary School Glasnevin



Billy Lynch from ERST visiting the Student Council in St. Vincent's Primary School in Glasnevin.

Coláiste Rís Dundalk



LCA STUDENTS E2T PROGRAMME

Our 6th Year LCA students recently participated in the Empower 2 Transform programme, a regional Good Relations initiative delivered across Northern Ireland and the border counties by leading youth organisations including YMCA Ireland, Youth Link NI, Youth Initiatives and Mencap NI. The programme is funded through PEACEPLUS by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

Empower 2 Transform aims to support young people in developing their confidence, skills and potential while encouraging positive relationships with others from different backgrounds and promoting active contributions to building a more cohesive society. Throughout the year, our students embraced these opportunities fully, showing great enthusiasm, teamwork and personal growth.

As part of the programme, students participated in a wide range of activities including a visit to Todd's Leap Activity Centre, driving workshops, bowling trips and group dinners. They also engaged in community-focused activities and formed strong relationships with both their leaders and peers.

The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and should be commended for the positive way they represented the school throughout the year. Their commitment, cooperation and willingness to step outside their comfort zones made the programme a great success for everyone involved.





TY Sports Leadership course

Congratulations to twenty-five of our Transition Year students who completed their TY Sports Leadership training. Organised by Louth Sports Partnership, this course explored leadership skills and behaviours, promoted effective communication skills and trained students to deliver an activity session to their peers. Well done!





TY Musical Festival with Music Generation

Our Transition Year students took part in a 'TY Music Festival' organised by Music Generation. The TY Music class visited DKIT Music department for a series of workshops. In addition to a guided tour of the facilities, this visit provided students with a valuable opportunity to engage with DKIT lecturers through a range of structured and interactive music activities including writing music for trailers, band sessions and choir.





National Well-Read Award

Coláiste Rís was proud to formally accept the National Wellread Award this morning, in recognition of a whole school initiative to spread the love for reading in school over the past 3 years.

The Oide Wellread National Award aims to promote the development of a reading culture in school communities because research has shown that this supports the personal and academic development of young people. The award requires the involvement of all stakeholders including students, teachers, parents, the board of management, and the wider community in reading and associated activities.

Photo is of Christopher Brennan (Oide) with TY Librarians; Shane Minto, Doireann Mullen, Saoirse Garvey and Zoe O'Hare.



Senior Science School Tour - Geneva, Switzerland

Students from 5th and 6th year Physics and Chemistry travelled to Geneva, Switzerland, on a senior science school tour. The group spent two days at the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN), home of the Large Hadron Collider, where they took part in workshops, explored the exhibitions, and enjoyed a private tour of the facilities led by some of CERN's leading scientists.

In addition to this exceptional experience, students also visited the International Red Cross Museum and the History of Science Museum in Geneva. The trip proved both educational and enjoyable, with students gaining valuable insights to support their Leaving Certificate science studies, while also making time for fun activities such as ice skating and a bit of snowball throwing.

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Lord of the Dance

We could not be prouder of Oisín Lennon – a past pupil who is now taking centre stage with Lord of the Dance and learning from the legendary Michael Flatley.

From our classroom to the world stage, Oisín's talent and dedication are an inspiration to everyone in Coláiste Rís. We will be cheering him every step of the way.



Coláiste Rís Student Council's Fight Against MND

The Student Council of Coláiste Rís proudly organised a charity football match between our 6th Year students in support of the fight against Motor Neurone Disease. The event was held in Oriel Park and brought together students, teachers, families, and members of the wider community for a fantastic cause, creating an atmosphere of unity, generosity, and school spirit throughout the day.

The match was extremely well attended, with huge support shown both inside and outside the school community. We were also fortunate to receive generous sponsorship and donations from a number of local businesses; whose support played a major role in the success of the fundraiser.

Thanks to the incredible efforts of everyone involved, we were delighted to raise an outstanding €13,187 for the fight against MND. This achievement reflects the compassion, dedication, and community spirit of the students of Coláiste Rís and everyone who contributed to such a meaningful cause.



"Rock Your Socks" Day in support of Down Syndrome North East.

Coláiste Rís were absolutely delighted to welcome Bernie from Hub 21 to our school to present a cheque for an amazing €670 — the proceeds from our "Rock Your Socks" Day in support of Down Syndrome North East.

🎉 It was a fantastic day in our school, filled with fun, colourful socks, laughter, and wonderful community spirit. We are so proud to support such an important cause and would like to thank everyone who took part and contributed so generously.



Coláiste Abhainn Rí Callan



Nurturing Faith, Christian Spirituality and Gospel-based Values.

1st Year Visit to Westcourt

Some of our 1st year students visited the birthplace of Blessed Edmund Rice at Westcourt. Br John spoke to the students about Edmund Rice's life and work, emphasising the historical significance of his legacy and the values that continue to inspire our school community today.

Celebrating Academic Achievement and School Spirit

Assemblies were held to recognise students across all year groups for their academic achievements and contributions to the school community. Students who earned 10–20 positive points from staff for their commitment to learning and excellent school spirit received compliment cards this term. Additionally, the top five academic performers based on the Christmas exams were awarded certificates in recognition of their outstanding results. Congratulations to all our recipients for their dedication and hard work –you continue to make the school proud. Pictured are the students being celebrated for their fantastic achievements.



Creating a Caring Community and Promoting Partnership

L.C.V.P. Breakfast Morning

The 5th year LCVP class organised a breakfast morning for our 6th year students, providing a relaxed and enjoyable way to unwind after their mock exams.



COLÁISTE ABHAINN RÍ

**2ND YR CSPE
MINI NATIVE WOODLAND
ACTION PROJECT**

Calling all local Business
Would you like to help us
achieve our goal of planting a
Mini Native Irish woodland?

Our aim is to plant 20 native
trees and native hedgerows
to benefit biodiversity and
wellbeing in our community

DONATIONS (BIG OR SMALL) CAN BE MADE TO



Alternatively contact: j.bibby@abhainnri.ie
for details.

Trees and Hedgerows provided by local suppliers



Fix Our Nature Hero Team

The Fix Our Nature Hero team recently received seven Rowan trees from Nicola at Callan Tidy Towns and The Hares Corner. The trees were planted alongside the new living willow hedge, enhancing the school grounds and contributing to the developing biodiversity garden. Plans for the multi-purpose garden are progressing well, and members of the community interested in supporting the project as sponsors are invited to get in touch.



Supporting TY Subject Choices

Our Fifth Year students facilitated a speed-meeting session on subject choice for our TY students.

They shared insights about the subjects they are currently studying for the Leaving Certificate, helping TY students make informed decisions about their own subject selections.



Excelling in Teaching and Learning

6th Year LCPE

Well done to all our 6th year LCPE class who completed their Performance Assessment worth 30% recently. Thanks to John Lockes for allowing us to use their facilities.



5th Year Trip to the Gaeltacht

Chun seachtain na Gaeilge a chéiliúradh, d'fhreastail ár ndaltaí ón gcúigiú bliain ar Choláiste na Rinne i bPort Láirge. D'fhan siad thar oíche sa choláiste agus cinnte bhain siad go léir an-taitneamh as. D'imir siad cluichí, d'fhreastail siad ar ranganna, ghlac siad páirt i gcéilí, d'fhoghlaim siad faoi stair na háite agus chuaigh siad go dtí an trá. Chuaigh cuid acu ag snámh fiú!

Comhghairdeas leis an triúr a bhuaigh "Fáinne" airgid ag deireadh. Bhuaigh siad an "Fáinne" seo de bharr a n-iarracht leis an nGaeilge agus an dearcadh dearfach a bhí acu i leith ár dteanga dúchais. Bhí an-craic ag gach duine ar an turas agus anois tá flúirse cuimhní dearfacha ag an ngrúpa seo ar a dturas chun na Gaeltachta.



Trip to Dublin

Our Transition Year students enjoyed a sunny day trip to Dublin recently, visiting the Criminal Courts and taking a walking tour of some of the city's well-known landmarks. Well done on their very good behaviour. Another great day out!



Road Safety and Driving Experience Workshops

Our Transition Year students took part in a hands-on session with the Irish School of Excellence, experiencing e-scooter and car driving, learning about engines and tyres, and exploring the dangers of drink driving through interactive goggles.



Congratulations to Ali Bryan

We are thrilled to congratulate Ali Bryan, Sixth Year, whose screenplay *The Humours of Tea* has been nominated for Best Screenplay at the Fresh International Film Festival 2026.

A screening took place at the Mansion House, Dublin, celebrating Ali's incredible work. We are so proud of her creativity, dedication, and talent. What an outstanding achievement! Well done, Ali!



5A Visit to KCLR & the Ormonde Hotel

5A visited KCLR as part of their English & Communications course and the Ormonde Hotel as part of their Hotel, Catering & Tourism course. At KCLR, students toured the station to see the 'behind the scenes' operations and met presenters John Walsh and Brian Redmond. At the Ormonde Hotel, they toured the facilities and took part in a Q&A session with General Manager Colin Ahern. These visits provided insight into working in the media and hospitality sectors, as well as a detailed understanding of food service in hotels.

St Aidan's CBS Whitehall

Immersion India trip October 2025

On Thursday 23rd of October thirteen students and five teachers left Dublin airport to travel to New Delhi in India on an immersion programme. This was the first immersion programme in the school post Covid 19.

The planning for this trip started in Spring 2024. Some of the students who applied for this programme were in third and fourth year respectively. The fundraising for this trip lasted for the full academic year from September 2024 to May 2025. During this time the team managed to fundraise over €40,000 for the programme. This involved table quizzes, bake sales, old clothes collections, non uniform days and even personal fundraisers. Some of the students participated in half marathons, charity cycles and bake sales in their Scout groups. The fundraising teaches key skills such as teamwork, communication and planning. All of these skills are crucial to an immersion programme.



In New Delhi we worked with a non governmental organisation (NGO) called PRATEK. This organisation works with the most marginalised disadvantaged children in India and aims to provide educational programmes and creative Art workshops to develop their confidence and skills. PRATEK aims to support and develop child rights by working with the United Nations (UN) to encourage them to support the rights of children.

We visited schools in New Delhi and met some wonderful children who are not much different from Irish students. We like the same music and watch the same movies and all carry smartphones. We did visit their homes and this made us realise how lucky we are in Ireland, and how much the Irish government supports education and housing in this country. The homes of these children were small, cramped and damp with no running water. Some have to queue up at water tankers twice a day to collect the water needed for each day. A lot of homes have no toilets and are forced to use community toilets with hundreds of others. We were gladly accepted into their homes, and they were proud to show us where they are from and how they live their lives on a day to day basis.



We visited schools in New Delhi, Jaipur and Agra and were lucky enough to see how the school day is different to Ireland. School starts much earlier in India but finishes in the afternoon and they even have schools on Saturdays. We brought over a lot of school supplies to the students who were happy to receive gifts from Ireland. They were also eager to learn about Ireland and how we live our lives.

We were lucky enough to be invited to the Irish ambassador to Delhi's residence Mr. Kevin Kelly. He explained to us the work of the Irish embassy and how he became an ambassador. He explained to us how trade is developed between Ireland and India and that there are approximately 500 Irish people living in India. Considering the population of India is 1.4 billion people there really is not a lot of Irish people living in India. This showed us how small Ireland is compared to India.

New Delhi has a modern Metro system and we were lucky enough to travel on it as we visited schools in the city. The Metro is relatively new and a fast way for the average Delhi commuter to travel across the city. New Delhi is a bustling vibrant city with much to offer. We visited churches, temples and even managed to meet the Archbishop of New Delhi. Hinduism is the most popular religion in India followed by Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Buddhism, and Jainism. It showed us how people with many different beliefs can worship and live side by side with each other peacefully.



During our trip to Jaipur we visited the palace, monasteries and explored the Pink city and everything it has to offer. This involved taking a five hour train journey from New Delhi to Jaipur. It was nice to see the countryside and watch the farmers work the fields and care for their animals. In Jaipur we learned about textiles and how important it is to the local economy. Clothes, bedsheets, jewelry and pottery are all made in Jaipur and exported abroad. This provides a lot of employment in this area.

On another trip we managed to visit the Taj Mahal. This is a white marble mausoleum that was built in 1653. It took twenty years to build and 20,000 construction workers to complete. We learned that between 40-50,000 people visit this site every day. A Mughal emperor called Shah Jahan built the Taj in memory of his wife. It is a UNESCO world heritage site and one of the new seven wonders of the world. It was truly one of the highlights of the trip and a privilege to see such an iconic building.

Visiting famous monuments is important, but we were in India to immerse ourselves into the Indian culture, and help the most disadvantaged and marginalised children in India. One of the highlights was meeting the children and making friends along the way. As an ERST school we are proud to have re-established the immersion programme and we know that this will be the first trip of many to India in the years to come. To quote Blessed Edmund Rice:

"Have courage; the good seed will grow up in the children's hearts later on."

Woodbrook College is proud
to announce

*We are a Champion
School of Sanctuary!!*

Thank you to everyone who has
contributed to our journey. We are
honoured to receive this status and pledge
to continue to celebrate diversity &
inclusion in our school community ❤️❤️

Ms. Cluskey & The
Culture Club 🌍🌍

Woodbrook College – A School of Sanctuary

Woodbrook College hosted its first whole school Intercultural Day on the 18th March as part of the School of Sanctuary programme. The event was lead by Ms. Katie Cluskey and the School of Sanctuary student team who wanted students to celebrate their cultures, engage in fun activities, meet new friends from different year groups who share their culture and most importantly have a safe, inclusive space in school. Woodbrook College has a vast diversity of people with 28 different student nationalities and 30% of students speaking a language other than English at home.

The hall was transformed with flags and students representing their country with food, dance, singing and crafts. The event coincided with Anti-Racism Day which the school community recognised by wearing something red. Guest speaker, Divine Lukelethake, the head girl in St. Mary's College in Arklow, delivered a powerful speech about her experiences. Staff and students from nearby primary schools attended and there were musical performances from students in Polish, Croatian and Afrikan. Our Romanian and Moldovan students danced a traditional dance where students joined in. The School of Sanctuary guest team had a tour of the school and hub students gave them a guided tour of the hub. The team also met with Ukrainian parents and listened to their experiences since arriving in Woodbrook College. Christina McIlveen from Bray Travellers Community Development group also had a stand with lots of interesting pieces and information.



As part of the programme during the year, Art students studied the work of refugee artist Petrit Halilija, 6th year Maths classes did a statistics project on refugees, students participated in a debate and attended a talk by a SOSI ambassador, who is a Somalian refugee, who came to the school to talk about his experience since arriving to Ireland and his work within the School of Sanctuary. Our Culture Club has grown from two to twenty students during the year and Ms. Katie Cluskey and Ms. Sadhbh Murphy worked with many of these students' parents to create the Savvy Suppers recipe book, which is a collection of affordable multicultural meals.

As a result, Woodbrook College made history by having their efforts recognised and was championed a School of Sanctuary!

Ardcoil Rís Dublin

EREBB Congress in Argentina

During the Easter holidays, I had the privilege of travelling to Buenos Aires to participate in the Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders (EREBB) Congress. This was a gathering of around 160 delegates from all over the world, who were invited not simply to reflect on education, but to reimagine it through the lens of encounter, global relationship and faith, in the Edmund Rice tradition.

The theme of the Congress, a 'Pedagogy of Encounter' inspired by Pope Francis, resonated deeply from the very beginning. It challenged us to consider education not merely as the transmission of knowledge, but as a sacred space where lives meet, stories are shared and dignity is affirmed. In that spirit, the Congress transformed into something far beyond a conference. It became a powerful, shared journey of global unity, where connections deepened, purpose was shared and a collective vision for a better world came vividly to life.

EREBB CONGRESS

BUENOS AIRES | ARGENTINA

20 26



Gathered with educators, leaders and inspiring Christian Brothers from across the world, I was struck by the richness of diversity and the unity of purpose that defined our conversations. There was a quiet power in listening to voices shaped by vastly different contexts yet united in their commitment to young people, especially those on the margins. In those dialogues, I was reminded that the mission of our schools in Ireland is part of something much larger. It is a global movement rooted in faith, justice, and hope.

Of the many powerful presentations delivered, one that remains deeply with me was that from Fr. Jamie Morea, who spoke about his work with young men struggling with addiction in the youth centre "Levantate y Camina" ("Rise Up and Walk"), which he founded.

Fr. Jamie's words were not theoretical; they were lived. To meet some of the young men who attend the centre was both humbling and deeply moving. Their honesty, their courage and their fragile but real hope spoke more powerfully than any prepared address. In them, we encountered not brokenness, but resilience and, unmistakably, the presence of God. The Levantate y Camina programme helps these young men restore broken ties, learn trust again, name wounds and offer them to a God who listens. Healing here is patient and tender, a slow re-weaving of dignity through relationship, work, support and prayer. It felt like resurrection unfolds here, one ordinary day at a time.

Equally impactful was the testimony of Pedro Duran, a survivor of the 1972 Andes plane crash. His reflection on hope and despair was both stark and deeply spiritual. He spoke of moments where survival seemed impossible, where despair threatened to overwhelm and yet where hope emerged, not as an abstract idea, but through the presence of others. His insight that we often find God most clearly in one another, especially in moments of vulnerability, was a powerful reminder of the essence of encounter. It is in relationship, in presence and in solidarity, that faith becomes real. A particularly meaningful moment of the Congress was our visit to the Church of St. Joseph in Flores, the parish where Pope Francis worshipped as a young man. Standing in that Sacred Space, one could not help but reflect on the formative power of community, faith and simple acts of witness. It was a quiet, reverent experience, one that invited stillness and gratitude.

Throughout the Congress, we were also deeply touched by the extraordinary welcome extended to us by the students and staff of Cardinal Newman College. Their warmth, generosity and pride in their school embodied everything the Congress sought to promote. There was a natural joy in their hospitality and a sense of belonging that transcended language and geography. Indeed, there is something very poignant in attending congress thousands of miles from home and to hear a school choir beautifully sing "O Danny Boy" as their one prepared piece.

The EREBB Congress affirmed that education, at its heart, is a deeply human and spiritual endeavour. It is about encounter and meeting each young person where they are, walking with them and helping them to discover their own value and potential. In our Edmund Rice schools in Ireland, we are privileged to live out this mission each day. And having witnessed it echoed across the world, I am more convinced than ever that what we do, matters, not just academically, but in shaping compassionate, resilient and faith-filled young people.

This EREBB Congress was a reminder that, in education as in life, we are never alone. We are part of a wider story. We are a global community striving, in our own way, to bring hope, dignity and light to the lives of young people. And for that, I am deeply grateful.

John McHugh

St Kevin's College Ballygall

Student Council Conference

A series of Student Council Conferences were held in March and we were delighted to participate in the meeting held in St Joseph's in Fairview. We had a lovely experience and were spoiled by all the treats.

The members of our Student Council felt inspired by the various presentations at the gathering and the photos below showcase some of the work carried out by Council members.

As soon as we returned to school, the Council got busy organising a 'Tea & Chats' afternoon. This consisted of an afternoon of refreshments, quizzes and playing board games. The student Council did trojan work to reward exceptional students in St Kevins College.

The event was a big success, students got invited to attend based on excellent behavioural comments on their Vs Ware record.

The event was fun and created new opportunities for relationships while allowing our students to feel valued and empowered.

We have a long list of things currently underway so watch this space.









Scoil Íosagáin Sexton Street Limerick



Confirmation – Limerick C.B.S.

Pictured above are pupils from C.B.S. Primary School, Sexton Street, Limerick, who recently received the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Michael's Church, Denmark Street, Limerick.

Also in the picture are Bishop Brendan Leahy and their teachers, Ms. Róisín Slattery and Mr. Timmy Ryan.

On the left is Aderet Agbadobi, after receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Michael's Church, Denmark Street, Limerick.

Aderet is pictured with Bishop Brendan Leahy and Mr Denis Barry, School Principal, who was also Aderet's sponsor for the Sacrament.



A group of teachers from Holland, on an educational studies visit to Ireland, paid a visit to Scoil Iosagain C.B.S., Primary School, Sexton St., Limerick, as part of their educational work and project, pictured with the school principal, Denis Barry.

CBC Kilkenny

Official Opening

Every year, Spring brings new hope and new beginnings and in CBC Kilkenny this Spring was no different. After many long years, a momentous day arrived in the history of our school when our wonderful new campus was officially opened by the Minister for Education and Youth, Hildegarte Naughton. On the 23rd of April, we enjoyed a joyous celebration of speeches and song in the company of representatives of the entire school community past and present. A huge thank you to our Board of Management, ERST, The Department of Education and Youth and all who contributed to the realisation of this day over many years. A special thanks must be extended to our Principal, Mr Tom Clarke, without whose tireless toil it simply would not have been possible. Thanks also to our former Deputy Principal, Ms Lucy Ryan, for organising the event, to the Music and Religion Departments and to all our wonderful student performers and contributors who did so much to enliven the event.





Year Group Tours

In Spring, much anticipated favourites also returned with our annual Transition Year tour of Bavaria and our 2nd Year tour of Paris, not to mention our 1st Year trip to the Burren and our Gaisce hike in The Comeragh Mountains.



A huge thank you to Mr Tyrell, Ms Bergin and Ms. Cullen for their trojan work in organising these tours and to all the teachers who made them possible by accompanying the students.



Spring is also the term where the work of the winter bursts into bloom with a range of successes across a host of activities. Congratulations to our Senior Choir, who claimed 1st place in the Fr Matthew Perpetual Shield, and to our 1st Year Choir, who finished 2nd in the Unison Choir Competition as part of the Feis Maitiu in Cork. Congratulations also to 6th Year Student Charlie Roberts, for his success at the Linguist of the Year Competition in UCD, to our Transition Year students Shane Burke, Adam Trehy, Tom Fenlon and Dylan Brett, who won the senior category at the local Student Enterprise Awards, to Jack Healy and Rohan Galvin who represented the school in the Microsoft Office Specialist Finals in Microsoft Dreamspace in April, and to Micael Frost and Louis Evansn who were awarded the UCD Economics of AI Award. We are very proud of you all.





Submissions by ERST schools to Edmund Rice International (ERI) - Youth Voices for Justice



St Joseph's CBS Nenagh

Our "Tech Buddies" initiative at St Joseph's CBS Nenagh promotes inclusion, equality and community by helping older generations develop essential digital skills.

Our Transition Years recognised the growing digital divide and created a six-week programme covering communication, apps, internet use, privacy, and social media. Working with our local community, they provided a welcoming, supportive space where learners could build confidence with modern technology.

This project reflects our commitment to human rights, justice, and advocacy by ensuring everyone has equal access to digital tools and opportunities. Through connection, learning and collaboration, we strengthened community bonds and empowered individuals to participate more fully in today's digital world.

Submissions by ERST schools to Edmund Rice International (ERI) - Youth Voices for Justice

CBC Kilkenny

Our TY International Relations Club delivered an informative and thought-provoking presentation on human trafficking, engaging students with an issue of both global and local importance. As part of Global Citizenship and Climate Action Week, the presentation linked to wider global issues through the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those focused on justice, dignity and the protection of vulnerable people.

Students learned that human trafficking remains a hidden but real issue in Ireland, with victims identified each year, including children. Particular emphasis was placed on recognising warning signs such as individuals appearing controlled, fearful or without access to identification or money. Students were encouraged to respond safely and responsibly by reporting concerns through appropriate channels, including emergency services.

This initiative reflects our commitment to developing informed, responsible young people who are aware of global challenges and their role in promoting human dignity and justice.



Submissions by ERST schools to Edmund Rice International (ERI) - Youth Voices for Justice



North Monastery Co-Ed Secondary School, Cork

Show Racism the Red Card is an annual competition organised by the Immigrant Council of Ireland that promotes anti-racism and celebrates diversity within Irish schools and communities.

This year's competition saw entries from schools across the country, featuring poetry, artwork, and many other creative expressions.

Rhys, a 2nd year student in our school, achieved 1st place in his category. For his entry, Rhys showcased our school's Code of Diversity through an original rap performance. In November we welcomed Marton Bisztrai from the Immigrant Council of Ireland, who visited our school to present Rhys with his certificate and prize.

Thank you to teachers Ms. Dunlea and Mr. Barry and Joe and Nicola from the Hut youth project for guiding Rhys throughout.

Submissions by ERST schools to Edmund Rice International (ERI) - Youth Voices for Justice

St Joseph's Secondary School



Over the past year, we as students have actively advocated for human rights, cultural awareness, and diversity within our school. Through the School of Sanctuary programme, we were proud to be named a Champion School of Sanctuary at TU Dublin, where we presented the poem "Refugees" by Brian Bilston. We also created a sanctuary space for students who feel overwhelmed and are working to fund a multi-faith reflection room.

Throughout the year, we organise inclusive events such as Culture Week, including a colour run and a "wear red" day to support anti-racism, ensuring everyone feels safe, welcomed, and supported, recognising that together we can create meaningful change



Submissions by ERST schools to Edmund Rice International (ERI) - Youth Voices for Justice

ERI Youth Voices for Justice - Ardscoil Na Mara, Tramore

The Student Council in Ardscoil na Mara actively engages with Human rights, Justice & Advocacy. In alignment with the SDGs and in particular number 2, zero hunger, this year we decided to focus on advocacy for the homeless and those in need in our wider community.

The Student Council persisted each day to rally for donations adding to the excitement of everyday life in our school. In total, we collected 6 full shopping trolleys of products to donate to a voluntary organisation, Helping Hands Waterford.

Additionally, we led students on a school-wide 'Walk for Homelessness', around our town to support the initiative.



Submissions by ERST schools to Edmund Rice International (ERI) - Youth Voices for Justice

CBS New Ross

Our Amber Flag committee, alongside the Student Council, are proudly helping to organise New Ross's Darkness into Light in support of Pieta House, demonstrating our commitment to human rights, justice and advocacy. By walking together at dawn, students show solidarity with those affected by suicide and self-harm, while raising awareness and promoting hope in our community.

This experience empowers students to become advocates for mental health, encouraging open conversations and reducing stigma. After the walk, our school provides a welcoming space where all participants can gather for refreshments, offering an opportunity to continue supporting one another in a positive and uplifting environment.



Coláiste Mhichíl Limerick

Transition Year Gaisce Trip

The Transition Year students along with Mr Waters, Mr Woulfe and SNA Mike enjoyed an overnight camping trip to Kilfinane Outdoor Education & Training Centre. The students participated in kayaking, cliff jumping, hiking, cycling and rock climbing. The overnight stay and activities gave the students the opportunity to discover new skills, overcome fears, work together in a team and improve their self-confidence.



Creative Schools

This term, the winners of the creative council's inaugural art competition "VANGUARD 1" collected their curated art packs. Congratulations to Susan, Yehor, and Feliks. The winning artwork will be framed and hung in the new Book Nook for all to enjoy. Thank you to Mr Shanahan for the photos and his hard work and dedication in creating the creative council.



Checkmate National Finals

Congrats to our chess team on their participation in the Checkmate National Finals in Nenagh. Our second team managed to place 3rd, in the minor division, in our first appearance in the national finals. While our first team finished mid-table in the majors division, they gave a great account of themselves against some very strong opposition. Overall our players did themselves, their parents and their school proud and will use this experience to go again next year. Thank you to Mr Rowan for the photos.





The Parent Council Fundraiser

The Parents Council of Coláiste Mhichíl was delighted to announce that €2,586.80 was raised during their raffle and cake sale.

The funds raised were used to supplement school trips for our students. A special word of thanks to Ms O'Connor, members of the Parents Council, and all the staff, students, and parents who contributed to and assisted with the organisation of both events.

The Parents Council would also like to thank the local businesses that supported the raffle.

End of year School Trips

Our end-of-year school trips are in full swing, with First Years and Second Years enjoying a trip to Fota Island. Third Years enjoyed a day out doing water sports such as kayaking and stand-up paddleboarding, while Fifth and Sixth Years enjoyed a day out bowling and a cinema trip. Thank you to all Year Heads for organising the school trips.



Dungarvan CBS



Celebrating All-Ireland Scholarship Success

We are incredibly proud to congratulate Alexander Kolodziej and Cathal McGovern on their outstanding achievement in being awarded the All-Ireland Scholarship Awards, sponsored by J.P. McManus. The awards ceremony took place earlier today at the University of Limerick, marking a very significant milestone in both students' academic journeys.

Alexander is currently studying Biomedical, Environmental and Geological Sciences at University College Cork, while Cathal is pursuing a degree in Engineering at the same university. Their success reflects not only their academic excellence and dedication, but also their commitment and hard work over many years.

Our Principal, Ms Agnes Guerin, was delighted to attend the ceremony in UL to celebrate this fantastic achievement. It was a truly proud and memorable occasion, shared with the students' families, former teachers and the wider school community.

Alexander and Cathal's achievements are a source of great pride for Dungarvan CBS, and they serve as an inspiration to our current students. We wish them every continued success and happiness in their studies and future careers.

Dungarvan CBS Boys Take on Beijing: A TY Trip of a Lifetime

In the early hours of April 26th, a group of Transition Year students along with four staff, set off for a week-long adventure in Beijing. Traveling light with nearly empty suitcases—strategic planning for the shopping to come—the boys traded the mist of the M9 for the bustling skyscrapers of China.



Culture, Markets, and "Rizz"

The trip was a whirlwind of sights and sounds. From the vastness of Tiananmen Square to the stunning architecture of the Forbidden City, the scale of Beijing left everyone in awe. A visit to the local markets saw the boys put their "rizz" (charisma) to work, successfully haggling for everything from jerseys to electronics.



Culinary highlights included a traditional peking duck dinner. While the students gamely attempted to use chopsticks, a round of cheers erupted when the teachers finally produced a secret stash of steel forks brought from home!

Building International Bonds

The heart of the trip was a visit to the High-School Affiliated to Beijing Institute of Technology. The boys immersed themselves in local life, participating in:

- Kung Fu and Tibetan Dance
- Ruan (traditional lute) lessons
- AI-judged long jump competitions
- TikTok collaborations with local students

The visit culminated in a ceremony officially declaring the two schools lifelong partners and friends.



Reaching New Heights

The undisputed "pièce de résistance" was the Great Wall of China. Braving 27°C heat, the group climbed over 1,000 uneven steps to take in the breathtaking views. Standing 58 floors high, the boys video-called home to share the moment, creating core memories that will surely become family lore.

The trip wrapped up with a high-energy day at Happy Valley Theme Park, complete with rollercoasters, golf-cart races, and pop concerts.

A New Perspective

As the 11-hour flight returned to Ireland, the suitcases were heavy with souvenirs, but the students' minds were even fuller. They returned home with a new cultural perspective, deeper friendships, and the unforgettable experience of a lifetime.

By Christine Lee, TY Co-Ordinator and Year-Head



Dungarvan CBS Celebrates Student Excellence at Annual Awards Night

On Tuesday, April 21st, Dungarvan CBS held its annual awards ceremony, a wonderful evening organized by Ms. Houlihan to celebrate the diverse talents and hard work of our students. This year's guest speaker was Cara Darmody, a 15-year-old disability campaigner. Cara delivered an inspiring speech about her brothers, Neil and John, who have special needs, and her tireless campaign to ensure people in Ireland receive the services they require. She also shared insights into her leadership and the determination necessary to lobby politicians for meaningful change.



Garda Youth Awards - Durg Related Intimidation Evening

Dungarvan CBS was proud to host a highly successful Drug Related Intimidation Information Evening, organised by our Transition Year students as part of their Garda Youth Awards initiative.

The student organising committee of Jack Shaw, Harry Higgins, Krishay Dulera, and Rian Bulfin worked hard to plan and deliver the event, which brought together students, parents, staff, and members of the wider community for an important and informative discussion on the realities and impact of drug related intimidation.



We were honoured to welcome the following guests and speakers on the night:

Detective Superintendent Sé McCormack

Detective Superintendent Michael Leacy

Sergeant Deirdre O'Neill

Detective Inspector Dónal Donohue

Detective Sergeant Tommy Gahan

Mr Kevin Byrne, DRIVE Representative

Each speaker and attendee contributed greatly to the success of the evening, sharing valuable insight, practical advice, and information on the supports available to those affected by drug related intimidation.

It was also great to welcome Councillor Damien Geoghegan, our Juvenile Liaison Officer Garda Aidan McCarthy, representatives from St. Vincent de Paul, and teachers from other local schools in attendance on the night.

The evening received very positive feedback across our social media platforms, with many praising the students' leadership, the importance of the topic discussed, and the strong sense of community support shown on the night.

Congratulations to all involved in making the event such a meaningful and successful occasion.

Doon CBS Primary School Limerick



Boys from Doon C.B.S. Primary School who were confirmed by Archbishop Kieran O'Reilly.



Confirmation Class – Doon 2026

Fionn O'Brien, a pupil of Doon C.B.S. Primary School, makes a presentation to his class teacher and school principal, Ms. Joanne O'Connell, following the Confirmation ceremony in Doon Parish Church.



First Holy Communion at Doon C.B.S., Co. Limerick.

Boys from C.B.S. Primary School, Doon, Co. Limerick, who recently received their First Holy Communion are pictured with their teacher, Ms. Elizabeth Doherty.



Doon C.B.S. Primary School hurling team that played in the Allianz Cumann na mBunscol I.N.T.O. / G.A.A. mini 7's hurling competition.



Mackey Cup – 2026.

Six boys from Doon C.B.S. Primary School who played on the East Limerick Primary School hurling team in the Allianz Cumann na mBunscol inter-divisional hurling competition.

(left to right): Oisín Ryan, Fionn O'Brien, John Cahill, Rory Morrissey, Tommy Treacy and P.J. Cusack.



Noelle Clifford and her husband John Clifford are pictured with their son J.J. Clifford, a pupil at Doon C.B.S. Primary School, following his team's participation in the County Limerick Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Indoor Hurling Competition, where J.J. proudly served as captain of the school team.



Joe Lyons, chairperson of Limerick Allianz Cumann na mBunscol, presents the Noel Liston Trophy to Joseph Quealy and J.J. Clifford, captains of the Doon C.B.S. Primary School indoor hurling team, following their victory in the county indoor hurling competition.



Their first stop was Westcourt, Callan, Co. Kilkenny, the birthplace of Blessed Edmund Rice, founder of the Christian Brothers and Presentation Brothers. Brother John Burke, curator of Blessed Edmund's birthplace, gave the boys a guided tour, including the very room where Blessed Edmund was born. The boys learned about his early life and the values of faith, education, and service that guided him.

From Callan, the group travelled to Mount Sion in Waterford, the first school in the world founded by Blessed Edmund Rice. At Mount Sion, Brother Peadar Gleeson led them on another tour, showing them the oratory where Blessed Edmund's remains lie. The boys discovered how his pioneering work in education continues to inspire young people today.

After immersing themselves in history and faith, the boys had some fun, visiting Splashworld in Tramore for a splash and a swim, followed by a stop at Dooley's famous chipper—a highlight for everyone.

It was a truly meaningful and memorable day, and the pupils, along with their teachers, will cherish this experience as they prepare for their Confirmation.



Pupils from Doon C.B.S. Primary School, Co. Limerick, who visited the tomb of Blessed Edmund Rice, founder of the Christian Brothers and Presentation Brothers, at Mount Sion, Waterford City.



Road Safety

Pupils from Doon C.B.S. Primary School, Co. Limerick, prepared for a cycling trip around the parish of Doon with Garda Michael Fitzgerald of Bruff Garda Station.

Garda Fitzgerald, who is a past pupil of the school, spoke to the pupils about road safety and the importance of safe cycling practices before they set off on their journey around the parish.



James O'Brien and Neil Hyman, teachers, along with Transition Year students from Scoil na Trionoide Naofa Secondary School, Doon, recently gave a demonstration on bicycle repairs to the 6th class pupils at Doon C.B.S. Primary School.



Sixth Class pupils at Doon C.B.S. Primary School, Co. Limerick, will conclude their primary school education in June 2026 after eight memorable years at the school.



Captains.

Jack Ryan, captain Lisnagry School hurling team, referee Philip Dee and John Cahill, captain Doon CBS team, before the East Limerick Allianz Cumann na mBunscol hurling final played at Kiltelly G.A.A. Grounds.



Blessed Edmund Rice Feast Day 5th May

Bishop Ger Nash celebrated Mass at the Blessed Edmund Rice Chapel, Westcourt, Callan, Co. Kilkenny, on Tuesday, 5 May, to mark the feast day of Blessed Edmund Rice. He is pictured after Mass with clergy who concelebrated the Mass, along with members of the Christian Brothers Community and a large gathering of local people who attended.

Blessed Edmund Rice was born at Westcourt, Callan, Co. Kilkenny, on 1 June 1762. He founded the Christian Brothers and the Presentation Brothers. He died in Waterford on 29 August 1844. His feast day is celebrated annually on 5 May.



Rice Cup

The Rice Cup, set up in 1944 to celebrate the centenary of the passing of Blessed Edmund Rice, is a premier Under-14 post-primary schools hurling competition. Established to foster young talent, it features top-tier hurling academies, primarily from CBS Edmund Rice schools across Munster and Leinster. Over 30 schools are now involved.

The tournament serves as a crucial developmental battleground for future inter-county stars. It is renowned for its intense rivalry, high technical skill, and rich tradition.

In 2026, Thurles CBS captured the historic title after a thrilling campaign.

Congratulations to Thurles CbS on winning the Rice Cup final against a strong Midleton CBS team. Thanks to John Stokes for presenting the cup to captain Aidan Russell

The Westcourt Cup was established in 1989 for B-grade hurling. The Rice Shield was set up in 2012. This is an 11-aside competition run in The Abbey CBS for smaller schools.

The Br O'Connell Shield was set up in 2024 for second teams from larger schools.

Recently, the first team from Ulster took part in the Fr. Alec Reid Shield.

Fr Alec Reid Tournament

Fr Alec Reid was a past pupil of Nenagh CBS and won a minor hurling All-Ireland with Tipperary in 1949. He hurled with Nenagh Éire Óg which was known as St Marys at the time. Fr Alec spent most of his life working in Clonard Monastery on the Falls Road in Belfast and was a key player in the Good Friday Peace Agreement. Fr Alec won numerous awards for the great work he did in helping achieve peace.

As the Rice Cup is a competition for all ERST schools and former CBS schools, we are constantly looking to grow the number of our schools in the competition. This year St Marys CBGS in Belfast looked to enter the competition but unfortunately the dates didn't suit to enter the Rice Cup blitz days. We decided to organise a tournament to include them in the Rice Cup Schools competitions by organising a one day blitz held in Abbotstown in Dublin.

The schools involved on the day were schools that St Marys had links with, in the past through matches, etc. Nenagh CBS were also invited as it was the school Fr Alec attended as a student. On the day, St Marys CBGS Belfast, Coláiste Mhuire Mullingar, Naas CBS, Ardscoil Rís Dublin, Thurles CBS and Nenagh CBS took part. All teams played a minimum of three games and the final saw St Marys CBGS and Naas CBS compete for the shield. St Marys came out on top after a great battle.

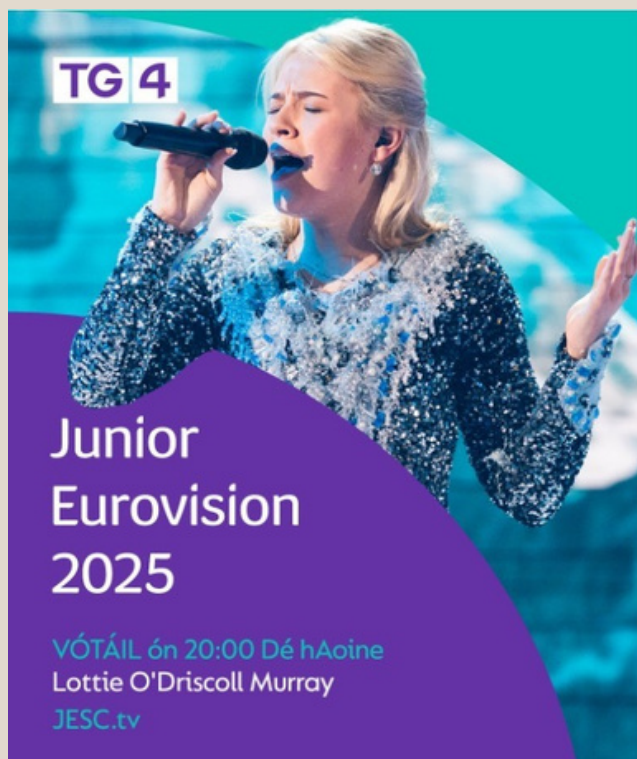
Thanks to the All-Ireland Post Primary Schools Committee which facilitates the Rice Cup each year, as it's a national competition. They supported us by organising Abbotstown for the day. Our thanks to Ardscoil Rís Dublin for organising the referees for the day and to all the teachers from the participating schools for supporting the tournament.

A very special word of thanks to Nenagh Éire Óg, President Jimmy Morris who in his 95th year travelled with his daughter Tina and son Martin to Abbotstown to present the shield to the winning captain from St Marys. Jimmy is the proud grandfather of Tipperary hurler Jake Morris. Jimmy did a huge amount of research in relation to the early years of Fr Alec Reid's life in school and in Nenagh Éire Óg. Jimmy was instrumental in Nenagh Éire Óg erecting a plaque on the outside of the GAA Complex in memory of Fr Alec Reid.





Gaelcholáiste Mhuire AG Corcaigh



Is dócha gurbh é an éacht ba shuntasáí againn, mar gheall ar an airdidirnáisiúnta a fuair sí, ná rath Lottie Ní Dhrisceoil Ní Mhuirí, a rinneionadaíocht ar Éirinn san Junior Eurovision. Ní hamháin gur mhórtas don scoil í, ach ba mhórtas don tír ar fad í freisin.

It has been a very successful year for the Students of GCM

Probably our most notable achievement due to its international coverage was the success of Lottie Ní Dhrisceoil Ní Mhuirí who represented Ireland in the Junior Eurovision! She wasn't just the pride of the school, but the pride of the whole country.



Tá saibhreas tallainne ceoil sa scoil againn, faoi stiúir ár bhfoirne iontaí, agus Jack O'Rourke agus Eleanor Ní Chonchúir ag déanamh obair den scoth lenár ndaltaí. Léiríonn an rath i Scléip, na cuairteanna sa phobal, agus ár dtaispeántas ceoil bliantúil an tallann iontach atá againn.

We have a wealth of musical talent in the school, led by our wonderful staff, with Jack O'Rourke and Eleanor Ní Chonchúir doing amazing work with our students. Success in Scléip, Visits in the community and our annual musical showcase the talent we have.



Táimid fíorbhródúil as an gcaidreamh fada buan atá againn le pobal an Taobh Thuaidh i gCathair Chorcaí, agus leanann ár ndaltaí orthu ag cothúan cheangail speisialta sin. D'oibrigh daltaí na hIdirbhliana le hAge Action chun ceangail a chruthú leis na daoine scothaosta, agus léiríonn natiomsaithe airgid d'eagraíochtaí ar nós Penny Dinners spiorad pobail árscoile.

We are extremely proud of our long-standing relationship with the local Northside community in Cork City, and our Students continue to cultivate this special connection. Our Transition Year Students have worked with Age Action to forge bonds with the elderly and fundraisers for organisations such as Penny Dinners continue to show our community spirit.





Tá an spórt i gcroílár an AG, agus arís eile bhí bliain rathúil againn igcúrsaí cispheile, sacair agus cluichí Gaelacha. Bhuaigh ár mbuachaillí agus ár gcaoilíní iliomad comórtas, craobhacha agus corn, lena n-áirítear Corn Uí Cheallacháin san iománaíocht shinsearach. Tá toadhcháí ghealspóirt ag an AG!

Sport is at the heart of the AG, and once again we have had a successful year, across Basketball, Soccer and Gaelic games. Our boys and girls have won multiple tournaments, titles and competitions, including the O' Callaghan Cup in Senior Hurling. The sporting future is bright in the AG!





Ach ní i gcúrsaí spóirt agus ealaíon amháin atá barr feabhais bainteamach againn — leanann ár ndaltaí orthu ag taitneamh, agus léiríonn gradaim ar nós Access UCC Plus, na gradaim Aspire2, chomh maith le gradaim UCC Cavanagh, ár dtiomantas don fheabhas i ngach gné de shaol na scoile.

But it's not just in sport and the Arts that we have excelled – our students continue to shine, with awards like the Access UCC Plus; Aspire2 awards, as well as the UCC Cavanagh awards demonstrate our commitment to excellence across the board for the whole school.





Rinneamar ceiliúradh bródúil freisin le déanaí ar ár n-oíche bhronntaduaiseanna bhliantúil, ócáid speisialta a bhí dírithe ar éachtaí den scothár ndaltaí le bliain anuas a aithint agus a cheiliúradh. D'oscail iar-dhaltana bliana, Éadbhard Ó Conaing, an ócáid go hoifigiúil, agus rinne sémachnamh ar a thréimhse sa scoil agus spreag sé na daltaí lena n-uaimhianta a leanúint.

Leag an oíche béim ar an rath acadúil, ach léirigh sí freisin an chruthaitheacht, an tallann agus an díograis a léirigh daltaí an AG i rith nablina, agus rinneadh ceiliúradh ar spiorad phobal na scoile dá bharr.

We also proudly celebrated our annual awards night recently, a special evening dedicated to recognising the outstanding achievements of our students over the past year. The event was officially opened by a former past pupil of the year, Éadbhard Ó Conaing, who reflected on his time in the school and encouraged students to pursue their ambitions.

The evening highlighted academic success but also showcased the creativity, talent, and commitment shown by AG students throughout the year, celebrating the spirit of the school community.

Ardcoil na Mara Tramore

Promoting Gospel Based Values, Nurturing Faith and Christian Spirituality.

One of the highlights of this term was as always the celebration of the Feast of Blessed Edmund Rice on May 5th. Members of our Peace and Justice Group and John Paul 11 awards together with their teacher, Mr. Mc Laughlin and Deputy Principal Mrs. Denton, attended a Mass in Waterford Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity.

During this lovely celebration in Word and Song we learned that Blessed Edmund fundraised to build the Cathedral and often prayed and worshipped there.

Meanwhile back at School we marked the Feast by taking part in a zoom gathering with members of our staff and Student Council.

We also had a Prayer Service and afterwards raised the ERST Flag. This was the culmination of our celebration.



Also this term our TY Young SVP Group did us proud at the annual Young SVP Day in the SETU Arena in Waterford. Special mention to our President Roisin Ni Eithir and Vice President Julie Mc Donald, both from TY. We honestly could not be more proud of their work this year. They are a charitable and selfless group of young people.

The Group also hosted St Joseph's School as part of our befriending project. It is hoped to further these bonds of friendship in the new school year.

Special thanks to Ms Knight for all her hard work and Coordination of the Group throughout the year.



Earlier in April some of our Fifth Year students took part in a very special pilgrimage to Medjugorje where they climbed Apparition Hill and Holy Cross Mountain, carrying our community's prayer intentions with them. It was a beautiful time of prayer, reflection, and friendship. Thanks to Ms. Fleming for organising the Pilgrimage again this year.



Our different Junior Cycle Religion classes all visited the Church of the Holy Cross in Tramore as they reflected on Places of Worship and World Religions. Thanks goes to the RE Teachers for organising the visits.



Excelling in Teaching and Learning.

Our First Year English classes visited the newly refurbished Tramore Library. The students were lucky to have a member of staff read to them before engaging in some quiet time themselves.



The TY's experienced how people lived in Ireland throughout the ages at the National Heritage Park. Evidence of Ireland's unique and distinctive history was learned. The Park has 16 reconstructed sites and our TY's had plenty to see and learn and bring back to the classroom.



Creating a caring Community and supporting partnership.

Our Student Council finished out the year on a high. They organised a Whole School Walk and what a feel good Friday it was! They coordinated this mammoth task with the help of the Student Council Coordinator, Ms. Finucane. All worked together to raise awareness and stand in solidarity with the homeless and those in need of a Helping Hand. Our whole school community filled 6 Baskets of food which we donated to Helping Hands Waterford. Thanks also to the order of Malta who helped us out on the day. A great start to the long weekend in May.



Our TY Meals on Wheels/ Tramore Eco Group had a very busy term and continue to represent our school so well. The Group have shown such dedication and work commitment each week. Well done and thanks goes to Ms Shanahan for her work with the group throughout the year



Inspiring Transformational Leadership

We were thrilled to receive the Overall Award for the AIB Ireland Future Sparks School Impact Award. This is down to the hard work carried out by a successive TY Environmental Leadership Team over the last four years. Congratulations to our students and the staff team involved.

We really are inspiring leaders for the world of tomorrow.



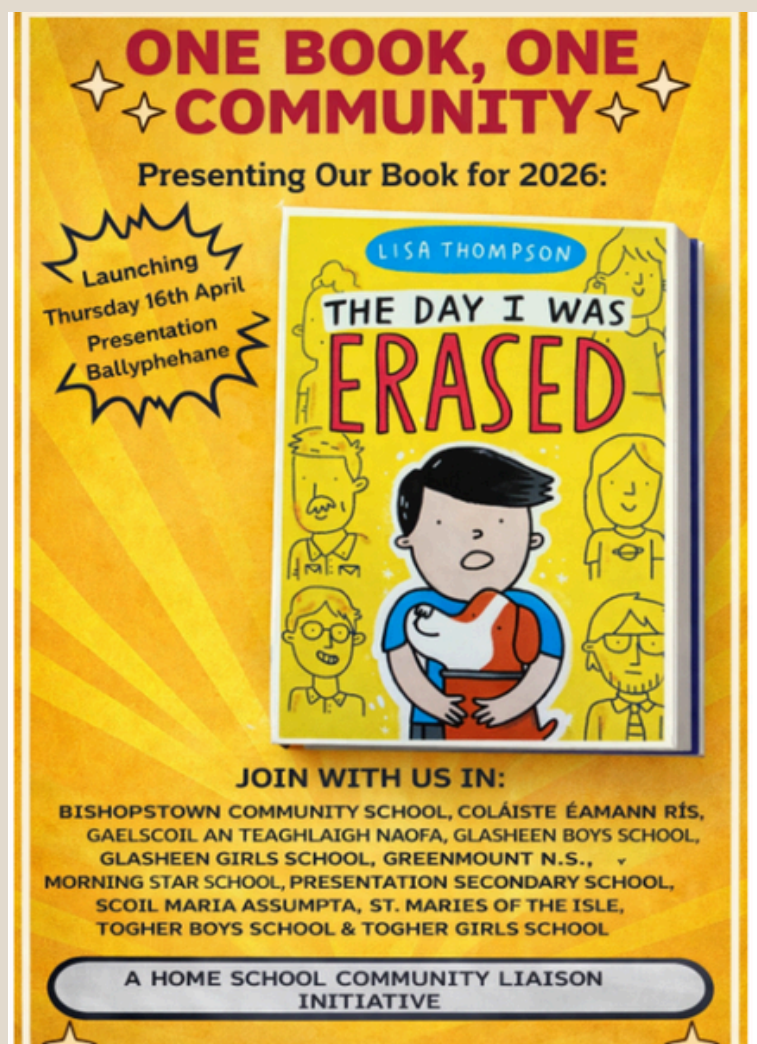
Ardscoil na Mara were delighted to be represented at the recent Global EREBB Congress in Buenos Aires, where Edmund Rice Schools gathered to reaffirm their commitment to offering an education that builds a better world for all.





All at Ardscoil na Mara wish all Siol readers a happy, restful and sun filled Summer break and good luck to all our students taking Exams both in house and State.

Coláiste Éamann Rís Cork



One Book, One Community – Book Launch Event

In April 2026, our One Book, One Community event took place in Presentation Ballypheane, bringing together students, families, and staff from across the local school cluster.

The event was warmly introduced by Vivienne Manning HSCL Togher Boys and Girls. Michael Scully, HSCL St Maries of the Isle, then welcomed our special guest, author Lisa Thompson, who joined us via video call to discuss her novel *The Boy Who Was Erased*.

Students really enjoyed hearing about her inspiration and the writing process.





Next, Tara Leen, HSCL Glasheen Boys and Girls, introduced our guest speaker, Spike O'Sullivan. Spike shared his personal journey in an honest and inspiring talk, followed by a lively question-and-answer session where students had the chance to engage directly with him.



It was wonderful to see parents, grandparents, and students from all the cluster schools coming together to celebrate reading and community.

A sincere thank you to everyone who took part, and especially to Presentation Ballyphehane for hosting such a memorable event.

Students Strike Gold in National Money Smarts Challenge

Four students from Mr. Kenny's Business and Economics class have put our school on the national map, taking home first prize in the Bank of Ireland Money Smarts Challenge and bringing €2,000 back to the school with them.

The Bank of Ireland Money Smarts Challenge is a prestigious national competition that tests students' financial literacy, economic reasoning, and problem-solving skills.

Competing against entries from schools across the country, our students rose to the top, impressing judges with their knowledge, preparation, and teamwork.



The twelve participants threw themselves into the challenge, applying what they had learned in class to real-world financial scenarios. Mr. Kenny said he was immensely proud of the group. "These students put in tremendous effort and represented the school brilliantly. To win a national competition is a fantastic achievement and something they should be very proud of."

Congratulations to all twelve students from CÉR that took part and particular congratulations to the winning four on this outstanding achievement, and a well-deserved national title and proud moment for the whole school.

Students will be presented with the prize by members of Munster Rugby as well as Olympic Athlete Rob Heffernan on May 20th.

Tesco Easter Food Appeal: A Celebration of School Spirit and Community





Teachers vs International Students Bring Energy to Sports Week Volleyball Match

Sports Week continued in great form with a lively volleyball match between teachers and international students, adding another highlight to an already exciting lineup of events. The game brought together different parts of the school community, celebrating teamwork, inclusion, and fun.



With Mr O’Keeffe taking on the dual role of referee and motivator, the match was as well-organised as it was entertaining. His enthusiasm from the sidelines kept both teams engaged and ensured the game was played in great spirit throughout. From the first serve, it was clear that this would be no one-sided contest. Both teams showed impressive determination and skill, with rallies that had spectators cheering and players fully immersed in the moment. Teachers and students alike demonstrated that the real goal of the match was not just competition, but connection. The international students brought energy and flair to the court, while the teachers matched them with experience and teamwork. The result was a closely fought game where every point felt earned and every play was celebrated.



More than just a match, the event highlighted the importance of participation and positive atmosphere. Laughter, encouragement, and mutual respect were evident from start to finish, reinforcing the idea that Sports Week is about bringing people together as much as it is about athletic performance. With plenty more events still to come, Sports Week continues to build momentum, promising even more excitement, camaraderie, and memorable moments for everyone involved.



6th Years versus teachers soccer match

The annual Teachers vs 6th Years soccer match took place this week in front of a great crowd of supporters. Both teams put in a brilliant performance, with plenty of skill, determination and good humour on display throughout the game.

The teachers eventually came out on top with a hard-fought 2–1 victory, despite a strong challenge from the 6th Years. Well done to everyone who took part and helped create a fantastic atmosphere.

Darkness into Light

Students and teachers proudly took part in this year's Darkness Into Light walk in support of mental health awareness. It was wonderful to see members of our school community come together in such a positive and supportive atmosphere.

Well done to everyone who participated and helped support such an important cause.

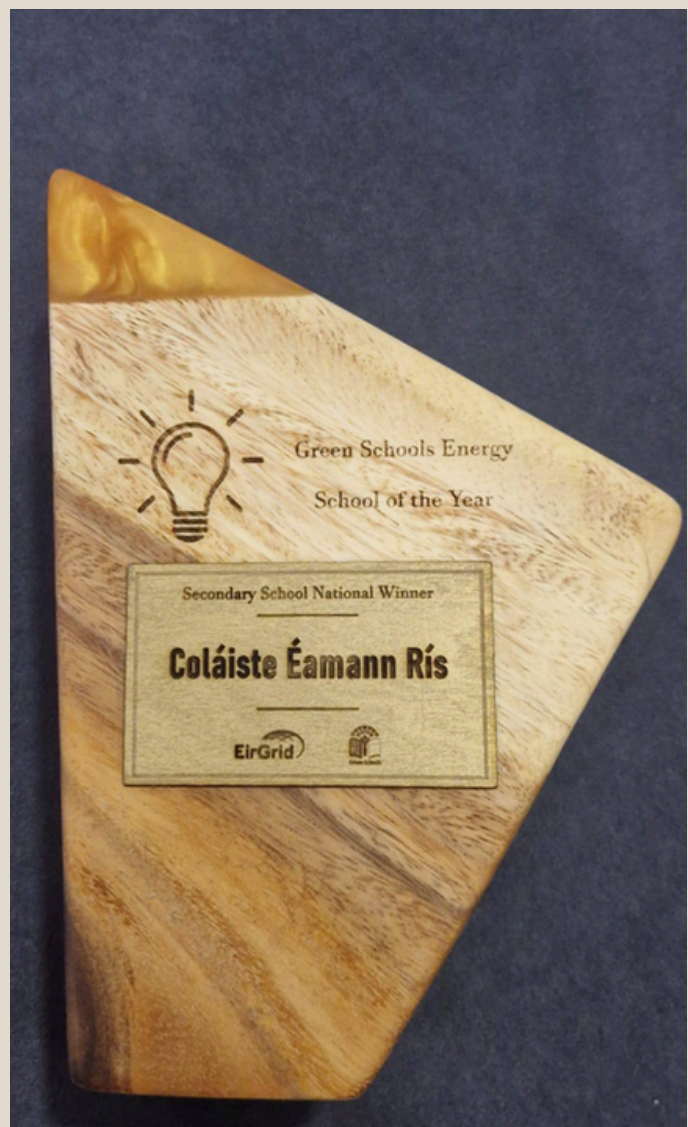




Green school's Energy School of the Year

A huge congratulations to our Green Schools Committee who were awarded the National Green School of the Year Award for Energy. The awards ceremony took place in Portlaoise, where representatives from the committee delivered an excellent presentation showcasing the fantastic work carried out in our school over the past two years to promote energy awareness and sustainability.

The students spoke confidently about the initiatives and campaigns organised throughout this time, including efforts to reduce energy usage and encourage environmentally friendly habits across the school community. Their hard work, dedication and teamwork were recognised on a national stage, making this a very proud achievement for everyone involved.





Edmund Rice Day

Our school celebrated Edmund Rice Day with a full day of activities and school spirit. The day began with an awards ceremony recognising students' hard work and achievements throughout the year, celebrating their dedication across all areas of school life.

The whole school community then gathered for a special prayer service to mark the occasion and reflect on the values of Edmund Rice.

Afterwards, the celebrations continued back at school where students enjoyed a BBQ, bouncy castles, and a lively water fight. It was a fantastic day filled with fun, community spirit, and celebration for everyone involved.



Lifelong Learning Festival 28th April 2026

Students from the Coláiste Éamann Rís Drama Club brought charm, humour, and energy to the stage with their recent performance of Cinderella at the Nano Nagle Theatre in Ballyphehane. The well-loved fairytale was reimagined as a lively and highly entertaining sketch that had the audience engaged from beginning to end.

Under the expert direction of Niamh Fanning, the students delivered confident performances filled with wit and creativity. Their enthusiasm and teamwork were evident throughout, making the production a memorable experience for all in attendance.

The audience responded warmly, with laughter and applause echoing through the theatre. Special guest Lord Mayor of Cork, Fergal Dennehy praised the students for their dedication and participation, highlighting the importance of the arts in school life.

Overall, the production was a great success and a proud moment for the Drama Club, showcasing the talent and spirit of Coláiste Éamann Rís students.



Naas CBS

2nd Year Ski Tour to Folgaria

During Mid-Term Break, a group of 92 2nd Year students were accompanied by nine teachers on their ski tour to Folgaria, Italy. They had a wonderful time skiing the slopes of The Alps and spending the week with their friends!

Thank you to Ms. Murphy, Ms. Masterson, Ms. Fleming, Ms. Lonergan, Ms. O' Brien, Mr. Dunne, Mr. Hughes, Ms. Houlihan and Miss Walsh who travelled with and looked after the boys during the week

Ms. Murphy.



5th Year Berlin Trip (5th – 8th of March) – Photos and Memories

Last week a group of 17 students and three teachers embarked on a four day trip to Berlin, Germany's lively capital city. Our students had a fantastic time exploring key sites and landmarks of Berlin's turbulent 20th century history, visiting some of its world class museums and experiencing its vibrant, avant-garde culture.

Thank you to Ms. Drewes, Ms. Lonergan and Mr. Murphy who travelled with and looked after the boys. However, the biggest Thank You goes to our 5th Year students who went on this journey to Berlin. Their positive attitude, kindness, comradery and sense of fun made this trip unforgettable.



Meitheal Graduation

Congratulations to our Meitheal Leaders who graduated from the Meitheal Programme in Carlow on Friday 6th March. Thanks to these 6th Year leaders for the activities they organised for 1st Years and the support they offered their younger peers to help them settle into secondary school.



6th Year Ag. Science Trip to Kildalton Agricultural College

Our 6th Year Agricultural Science students recently travelled to Kildalton Agricultural College to take part in the Agri Aware Walk & Talk event and it proved to be a hugely valuable and enjoyable experience for everyone involved. Throughout the day, students had the opportunity to gain hands-on experience on a working farm while also attending a range of highly informative talks covering key areas of the Agricultural Science course. These included sessions on soils, horticulture, equine studies and sustainable farming practices, all delivered by experts in their respective fields. The day allowed students to see many of the topics they study in the classroom brought to life in a real farming environment. They engaged enthusiastically with the activities, asked great questions, and weren't afraid to roll up their sleeves and get stuck in. A big thank you to Agri Aware and the staff at Kildalton Agricultural College for hosting such a well-organised and educational event. It was a fantastic day of learning and a memorable experience for our students.



Daffodil Day 2026

Thanks to the generosity of staff, parents and students, we raised €2,692.60 for Daffodil Day 2026.

We are very happy to raise funds for The Irish Cancer Society who provide vital care and support to cancer patients.

A huge thank you to our Prefects for all their hard work this morning. Thank you also to Stephen Raleigh for taking the photos.



1st Year Soccer Team Reach Midlands League Final After 6-2 Win Over Maynooth P.P.

Well done to the 1st Year soccer team who won their semi-final 6-2 against Maynooth P.P. A fantastic game and a super effort by all at Killashee Astro in glorious sunshine. Best of luck this week against Clane in the Midlands Final.



Seachtain na Gaeilge

We were delighted to link up with St. Corban's N.S. to celebrate our culture and heritage through music. Edward and Cormac Donegan, both past pupils, were invited over to Corban's to play traditional music for the students there. Their performance was greatly received and we are very proud of them!

Three of our own past pupils came back to visit and perform traditional music at various assemblies throughout the week. Colum Doyle, Senan O'Neill and Brian McNamee performed a variety of tunes to celebrate traditional Irish music. The lads also spoke to the music classes to impart their knowledge about traditional dances and instruments which is all covered on the music curriculum. A huge thank you to Colum, Senan and Brian for giving their time to come back and visit us.



Finally, 80 students from 6th Class in Corban's came to visit on Thursday to enjoy musical performances from some of our music students. It was a lovely afternoon of music and great to connect and collaborate with students who will be part of our school community in September.

Well done to Daniel Oke, Edward Donegan, Darragh Phillips, Fionn Whelan, Conor Morgan, Oisín Tuohy, Oscar Babitchi and Harry Byrne. The lads performed songs by Irish artists including Zombie by the Cranberries and Killegh by Kingfishr. You can watch their performance on our Instagram page @cbs.naas

As well as a fantastic musical performance, our music students spent some time giving advice and tips to the incoming students. We hope to continue our relationship with Corban's in this capacity.

Very proud of all involved and delighted to have such talent in the school!

Model European Parliament Debate

Well done to Harry Shore, Patrick Cleary, Ruadhán O'Connor and Oisín Tuohy who represented Naas CBS as German and Dutch delegates at NCC's Model UN Parliament. The European Commission proposed that companies could replace cocoa butter with other vegetable oils and still call the products 'chocolate' as well as mandating all member states to permit the sale of such chocolate. A great debate took place and Germany was awarded the best delegation. Well done lads!



Young Economist of the Year 2026

Huge congratulations to our 5th Year students Finn White, Gavin McNamee, Anthony O'Rourke and Tadhg Wholey who were awarded silver medals at the Young Economist of the Year 2026 National Awards.

Their project was titled Uruguay's Renewable Revolution, and it examined how Uruguay successfully transitioned to almost 100% renewable electricity and what economic policies would Ireland and the EU need to adopt to achieve a similar transition?

This year's event was hosted in UCD and the lads did a fantastic job representing the school at the competition.

Well done.



Success for Naas CBS Maths Teams in the All-Ireland Final

There were two teams representing Naas CBS in the IMTA Team Maths All-Ireland Final in Portlaoise on Saturday.

Junior Maths Team

Huge congratulations to our Junior Maths Team who placed seventh out of the top 35 teams in Ireland. Super achievement to rank so high in the All-Ireland Final.

Senior Maths Team

The Senior Maths Team represented the school to a very high standard on Saturday – the team's problem solving skills were excellent. Well done and best of luck in the Leaving Cert.



Sean Murphy represents Ireland on the FAI U18 Schools Team

Congratulations to Sean Murphy (5th Year) who represented Naas CBS on the FAI Irish U18 Schools Team this year.

Hard luck to the Irish team who were beaten 3-1 by Wales in the 2026 SAFIB Centenary Shield yesterday.

In March, Sean also represented Ireland on the U19 team that played in the qualifiers for the 2027 UEFA European U19 Championship in Scotland.

Well done on this fantastic achievement Sean.



ISTA Junior Science Quiz - Naas CBS finish in Second Place

Josh Conway, Conall White, Tom Horan, Elliott Plant, Lee Higgins and Jimmy Fairless from 3rd Year went to St. Mary's on Wednesday 22nd April to compete in the Junior Science Quiz. The quiz was a standard table quiz format with questions drawn from the Junior Certificate syllabus and general scientific knowledge. It was a wonderful, competitive evening with a welcome break in the middle for ice-cream! Thanks to the Kildare Branch of the ISTA for organising the event. Our boys performed wonderfully with the team consisting of Josh Conway, Conall White and Tom Horan finishing in joint second place. Huge congratulations to the boys from all of us here in Naas CBS.



Mount Sion Primary School

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Excelling in teaching and learning

SnaG 2026 was a fantastic event this year in our school. Coordinated by Carolyne Quirke and Rory Finnegan, the boys engaged in many activities over a two week period in March. We were particularly impressed by the levels of enthusiasm from the children & we would like to thank the boys and their teachers for making SnaG such a great learning experience. Over the course of the two weeks, we aimed to promote Gaeilge in a fun & active way for the children. Activities included a Céilí, Am Scéalaíochta, Cluichí sa Chlós, Súilóid Staire, Tionóil & Hip Hop Ghaelach.

The Voice of Mount Sion Strikes a Chord!

Promoting partnership

Music, magic and magnificent talent filled the halls of Mount Sion Primary School recently as students took centre stage for the spectacular Voice of Mount Sion singing competition — an unforgettable celebration of song and performance!

This year's event was bigger and brighter than ever, with over 70 budding stars bravely stepping into the spotlight to showcase their vocal talents. The competition was divided into two exciting events: a joyful, non-competitive showcase for pupils from Junior Infants to Second Class, and a fiercely contested senior competition for students from Third to Sixth Class.

From heartwarming ballads to energetic pop anthems, the school was alive with melody as students dazzled audiences with confidence, courage and charisma. The junior performers charmed everyone in attendance with their enthusiasm and infectious joy, proving that the future of music in Mount Sion is certainly in safe hands!

Meanwhile, the senior competition brought the house down with a truly astonishing standard of performance. Student Judges were faced with the enormously difficult task of selecting a winner from a field overflowing with talent. Every performer delivered a memorable performance worthy of applause, making this year's competition one of the most exciting yet.

After an electrifying final, the coveted title of Senior Voice of Mount Sion 2026 was awarded to the outstanding Joel from Ms Power's 5th Class, whose breathtaking performance of "Die with a smile" captivated both judges and audience alike. Joel's stage presence, confidence and incredible vocal ability earned a standing ovation and crowned him a truly deserving champion.



Our voice of Mount Sion Joel Jijo 5th class Ms. Power

A huge congratulations must go to every single student who participated. Their bravery, dedication and talent made the event a tremendous success and created memories that will last long after the final note faded.

The Voice of Mount Sion once again proved that our school is bursting with talent, spirit and creativity — and we are already counting down the days until next year's spectacular show!

Our Knitting club Creating a caring school community

The boys in 3rd class met every Tuesday for 6 weeks after school and learned to knit from teachers Ms. Spillane, Ms. Power and SNAs Ms. Kennedy Carroll, Ms. O' Brien and Ms. Cullen. It proved to be a relaxing activity and everyone looked forward to it after busy school days. The adults and children worked together, helping one another and developing teamwork and communication skills.



Our knitting group created a positive and supportive community where all involved could learn, create, and connect with others. Next school year our present 5th class boys cannot wait to start Knitting Club.

Edmund Rice Week

Nurturing faith, Christian spirituality and Gospel-based values, Creating a caring school community

We are so lucky that our school is the first Edmund Rice school. We are at the heart of where it all started. Every class looks forward to celebrating Edmund Rice week! Our prayer service at the end of the week celebrates how each class is living the spirit of Edmund Rice. Br. Peadar is at the centre of our celebration of Edmund Rice week. Every class looks forward to Br. Peadar's field trips. All our learning and creativity is centred around Edmund Rice for Edmund Rice week. Our staff raised money for Waterford Food Bank during Edmund Rice week. Waterford Food Bank came in to thank us for our donation and spoke to 5th class about their work.

Waterford Food Bank's work is inspired by the values and vision of Edmund Rice. Edmund Rice week ended with each class getting an ice cream from the ice cream van.



Br. Peadar telling the boys about Edmund Rice and the bake house



Br. Peadar in the Blessed Edmund Rice chapel telling the boys about Edmund Rice



Classes made posters how they are living the spirit of Edmund Rice





Our Blessed Edmund Rice prayer service



Enjoying ice cream after the Edmund Rice prayer service



Mount Sion School Garden
Excelling in teaching and learning



Celebrating Hurling At Mount Sion Primary School Promoting partnership

April sees our Annual Yard Hurling Leagues head into full swing as Clós Phádraig Uí Fhainín echoes to the sound of ash on leather and our national game dominates the sporting vista!

This time of year is hugely exciting for our boys as they get to participate and compete to make the final "Super Sixteen" for our Champs (Celebrating Hurling At Mount Sion Primary School!) Week showpiece finals. How it works is that each year plays weekly after school, a mixed match, made up of all the boys who wish to play. If you are on the winning team, you receive 3 points, runners up receive 1 point and all boys receive 2 points in the event of a draw! Following 8 weeks of hurling, the Top sixteen boys in each year will play a final before the school with all the pomp, pageantry and ceremony of Croke Park on All Ireland Final Day... Music, parades, national anthem, flags and a raucous crowd make for the most spectacular of school memories and occasions!



The yard hurling league (all ground hurling!) has been synonymous with our school for almost 50 years now. The brainchild of the late, great Brother Dowling and his colleague Brother Colm Griffey, the leagues came into their own in terms of significance following a tragic event in 1981.

That fateful event was a tragic accident in April of that year when the Waterford Under 21 Hurling team were returning home after playing a challenge match against Clare in Tipperary. En route home, tragedy struck near Piltown, Co. Kilkenny when their bus struck a stationery truck in the darkness. Lost in the tragedy were Tony Forristal of Mount Sion, the team manager, (whose memory is commemorated with the Tony Forristal Under 14 National Hurling tournament each year) young Jimmy Costello of Butlerstown and a young Mount Sion Hurling star named Martin O' Grady.



Following Martin's untimely and tragic passing, the O'Grady family donated the Martin O' Grady Shield which would become the 6th Class trophy and the blue rib and event of our hurling calendar and Champs week. Hurling greats such as Ken McGrath and Eoin Kelly amongst many others have competed for this Shield. Since then, our 5th class league has grown to honour the memory of another Mount Sion great, Paddy Greene.

But the beauty of the leagues is that whether you are an accomplished hurler or absolute beginner, the yard hurling leagues offer fun and friendship!

This year promises more of the same and thanks to the commitment after hours of almost twenty school staff, these leagues continue go from strength to strength. As the weeks unfold, we all can't wait until May 25th of this year, when Champs Week once again, ushers in the Mount Sion boys into their very own sporting colosseum for the glory of our ancient game!

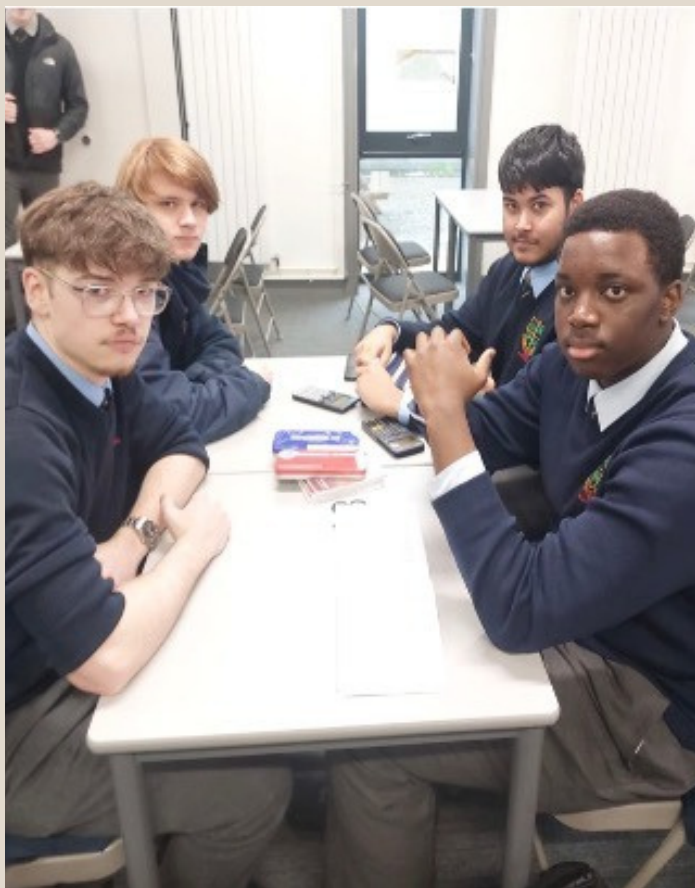


St Mary's Academy CBS Carlow

Grease the Musical

A huge congratulations to all of the Transition Year students from St Mary's Academy CBS and Gaelcholáiste Cheatharlach on their fantastic performances of Grease.

The talent, dedication and enthusiasm shown by the students both on and off the stage have been truly impressive. From the lively musical numbers to the brilliant acting, choreography and stage production, it has been wonderful to see the students bring such energy and creativity to the stage.



Huge congratulations to our Senior Maths Team, who represented the school in the IMTA Team Maths Competition.

Students Kevin Iwanik, Fahim Ahmed, Jack Moran, and Ese Erhabor, along with their teacher Mr. Brennan, achieved an outstanding result by finishing joint second in the region.

This is an impressive accomplishment in such a highly competitive competition. We are incredibly proud of the students' hard work, dedication, and commitment.

Well done to the entire team on this fantastic achievement!

Trad for Trócaire

Students recently took part in a wonderful Trad for Trócaire event, where the sounds of traditional Irish music filled the school as students performed alongside Ms Cullen and Ms Mahon. In addition, the talented musicians showcased a variety of lively tunes outside local shops, creating a fantastic atmosphere while raising money for the charity Trócaire. It was a brilliant opportunity for students to share their musical talents while supporting an important cause, and the event was enjoyed by all who attended.



Daffodil Bake Sale

Our school community came together in the most wonderful way for this year's Annual Daffodil Day Bake Sale, held during morning break. The event was a huge success, with students and staff bringing in an incredible variety of homemade treats from delicious cupcakes and cookies to brownies and fresh bread, all in support of a very important cause, the Irish Cancer Society.

There was a fantastic buzz around the school as everyone queued up to support the sale, and it was lovely to see such generosity and enthusiasm from all classes. Not only did we enjoy some tasty treats, but we also raised valuable funds for Daffodil Day, helping to support those affected by cancer and the vital work of cancer services across Ireland.

A big thank you to everyone who baked, donated, and supported the sale. Your kindness and effort truly made a difference.





Chess

Huge congratulations to Fahim Ahmed, Rafael Renji, Kevin Iwanik, and Richard Jimoh on their fantastic achievement of securing 3rd place at the All-Ireland Checkmate Secondary School Chess Final this week.

Their success is a testament to the dedication and preparation put in by the team, particularly Fahim's leadership and hard work over the weekend which paid off in an outstanding performance against top-level competition.

A special mention to Rafael (pictured to the very right of the photo), who delivered an exceptional individual performance, scoring 5.5 out of 6 and earning the award for second-best player overall. (Pictured getting into the zone before the competition by defeating Mr. Coughlan while blindfolded!)

Green Schools Committee

Congratulations to our Green Schools Committee on the creation of our 'C.BEE.S Scarecrow' to promote biodiversity in our local area. Xavier Dabrowski, Emil Liguzinski and Michal Liguzinski, along with help from their teachers, completed the project seen here. We hope to see our Scarecrow on display in Carlow Town as part of their 'Low mow/No mow' month of May campaign. This project hopes to encourage people to leave an area of grass to develop naturally and become a safe habitat for pollinators, wild flowers and insects. Well done to all involved throughout our school community.





GAA Future Leaders

On Thursday mornings, our GAA Future Leaders had the pleasure of welcoming 4th and 5th class students from Bishop Foley's Primary School for a fun and active coaching session. The morning was a great success, filled with energy, enthusiasm, and plenty of skill development.

Our Future Leaders took on the role of coaches, organising and leading a variety of drills designed to improve fundamental GAA skills such as passing, soloing, and teamwork. The primary school students showed fantastic engagement and eagerness to learn, throwing themselves into every activity with great spirit.





Tech Fest

Students from St Mary's Academy CBS, Carlow enjoyed outstanding success at the Kinia Creative TechFest, held at Explorium in Dublin, securing top awards across multiple categories.

The school's 1st year robotics team claimed the Robotics Award after impressing judges with their innovative project. The students transformed a standard workshop bench into an interactive robotic playing field, designing, building, and programming five robots. The robots competed in a series of exciting challenges, including a fast-paced soccer game and a sumo wrestling tournament. Team members included Davey Curran, Cayden Horan, Ruairi Kavanagh, Cillian O'Donoghue, James Sheehan and Calin Valicov.



St Mary's Academy CBS also took home the Sustainable Technology Award. Students T.J. Keating, Craig Power and Karol Szatkowski were recognised for their environmentally focused project of a self-powered automated garage designed to protect vehicles during extreme weather. Powered by falling rainwater, the system uses a movable platform to guide a parked car safely into the garage, offering protection during adverse conditions and severe flooding. The project stood out for its strong combination of sustainability, engineering skill and real-world application. In addition to the team successes, Karol Szatkowski achieved individual recognition in the H2GP fastest lap competition. He recorded the fastest time of the day with an impressive lap of just 9.45 seconds in his hydrogen-powered car, earning top honours in a highly competitive field. These achievements highlight the students' creativity, technical ability and teamwork, as well as the school's strong commitment to STEM education. The success marks a proud occasion for St Mary's Academy CBS and reflects the dedication of both students and staff in fostering innovation and excellence.



EPAS Awards

Congratulations to four of our TY students Mena Erhabor, Sean Buchanan, Carlos Dominguez Diaz and Jakub Dziadura that were awarded as Junior Ambassadors for our school in the EPAS programme in Dublin today. They gave a fantastic and engaging presentation to all the people that attended the event.

They had the opportunity to chat to, ask questions and engage with new ideas all EU related. They also had time to visit the EU interactive display in Europe house.

As part of the day our students along with their teacher Ms Fitzharris had the opportunity to chat with two of our Irish MEP's Aodhán Ó Riordáin and Barry Cowen. A fantastic day was had by all.





A Day at the ECO-UNESCO YOUNG ENVIRONMENTALISTS SEMI FINALS.

On the morning of the 11th, Emil, Sid and I were thrilled to attend the ECO-UNESCO semi finals Science Competition held in the Airfield Estate, Dundrum Co. Dublin. We battled through the horrendous morning rush hour traffic and it was truly mental-wrecking. We arrived early and were given the opportunity to explore the estate. There were the woodland walks, vintage car museum and the spotlight: the farm animals. Our judging session began at 10.40am and we were greeted by a judging panel full of experts from multiple agencies from different specialisation.





We presented our project and received very positive feedbacks. The judges asked multiple questions such as "What are our plans for future expansion?" and "What skills did we learn from this collective effort?" The pitch was phrased by the judges as "professional" and we were delighted to hear the feedback and received a lot of advice for future expansion.

We then enjoyed the facilities and explored further with our teacher Mr. Brennan. Overall we're delighted with the whole experience in the Airfield Estate Dublin. We truly learned a lot from the judges, and this experience is a great exposure for us. We really enjoyed this surreal atmosphere and hope to make it through and compete in the finals soon.

Drimnagh Castle Secondary School

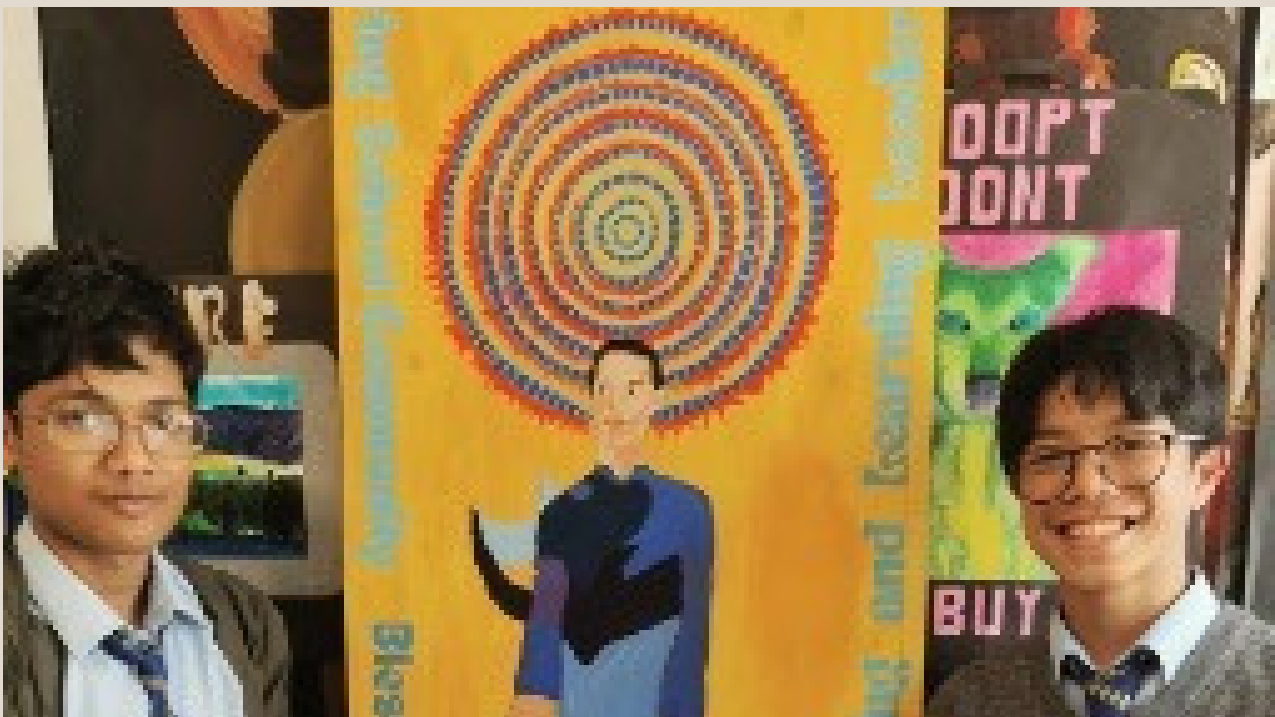
Nurturing faith, Christian spirituality and Gospel-based values Service, Presence and Community in Action

Every Wednesday morning, a small group of Third Year students, accompanied by a teacher, Mr Bailey or Mr Hazel, visit the Parish Church in Walkinstown to offer practical service to the local parish community. Most weeks, the boys serve tea and coffee to retired parishioners who gather after morning Mass, while also helping with any other tasks that may be needed, such as setting up or packing away the Christmas Nativity scene.



What makes this initiative special is not just the work carried out, but the spirit in which it is done. The students' presence - warm, respectful and generous - is deeply appreciated by parishioners and by Parish Priest, Fr Paul Glennon. These weekly visits have become a meaningful point of connection between school and parish.

This year we celebrated Blessed Edmund Rice Day by bringing first years and some second years over to our parish church for mass. Students said prayers of the faithful and participated as servers really enriching the ceremony. Some Second Year Students created a special art piece to celebrate the day and raise awareness of Edmund Rice core values.





Promoting partnership

Alex Byrne & Ciaran Kildee-Doolin did the school proud in January at the Arthur Cox Pro Bono Event.

In front of an audience they answered questions with confidence & maturity about the Legal Ed module that we have as part of the TY course. We have long had a fruitful partnership with Arthur Cox who every year provide this module to all Transition Year students. Alex and Ciaran subsequently went on to do work experience in Arthur Cox.

Careers Fair 2026.

Drimnagh Castle held its two very successful Careers Fairs this year. Our Transition Years, 5th years and 6th years attended. Parents were also invited. We invited local schools to maximise the impact for our exhibitors. The fair had something for everyone with all the main Dublin Universities and local further education colleges. The students considering apprenticeships were able to talk to the Defence Forces, Dublin Firebrigade, the ESB, Gas Networks and smaller local businesses such as A1 Tradesman.



Our partnerships with outside agencies have ensured that our 6th year students are receiving great opportunities to experience possible career options for the future . Many thanks to Standard Control Systems and Irish Rail for inviting our 6th years in to talk to them about the work of an electrical instrumentation apprentice and building management systems and in apprentice opportunities in Irish Rail.

Music

A huge thank you to the Musical Youth Foundation for their extremely generous and much appreciated donation of equipment. There is no stopping our vibrant music department now from filling the school with music.



Excelling in teaching and learning

Our Transition Years got to try their hand at fight choreography and screen combat recently as part of their drama and film module. A fantastic day enjoyed by all, thanks to Ms. Carley for organising.





Don Mullan

We were honoured to welcome, friend of the school, Don Mullan in to speak to our Leaving cert History and Politics students. At the age of 15, Don witnessed the events of Bloody Sunday in Derry as he was participating in his first Civil Rights march. His 1997 best-selling book *Eyewitness Bloody Sunday* is officially recognised as an important catalyst that led to Prime Minister Tony Blair's decision in 1998 to establish a new Bloody Sunday Inquiry. Don spoke about his experiences during Bloody Sunday, and incredible life after.

The same class got the opportunity to see the workings of the Dail up close in a recent visit to the Oireachteas.





We are very lucky to share our grounds with the only remaining moated Castle in Ireland. Mr Munnely and Mr Doyle availed of this fantastic learning experience with their First Year History classes, bringing the Norman section to life by being able to see exactly what a medieval castle looked like.



Mathematical Minds

Ian Mercado (team captain), Dain Bibu John, David Gruszcza and Ryan Vu travelled to Portlaoise for the IMTA Higher Level Maths Final. They came 3rd in the Dublin South regional in March. Their minibus was kindly sponsored by the IMTA who were delighted that a DEIS school made it to the finals. The boys did really well but, alas, it wasn't their day. We are all very proud of their achievement on a national level. Many thanks for all the hard work and dedication of their teacher Nicola Carroll.



Massive congratulations to Ismail Darwish (First Year) who claimed 1st prize at the IMTA Maths competition, getting 95% and beating out 18000+ other students in the nationwide competition.

Well done to Dylan Timmins, Thomas Yin Hao Zhang, Carl D'Costa, Mohammad Abu Mahfouz, Alexander Rooney & Kyle Gavin who also won prizes at the IMTA competition.

Card Sharks

Mr Burns is endeavouring to bring numeracy into the real world with one of his maths groups. Recognising patterns and mental maths are all essential skills when the chips are down for Jason, Oisin, Mason, John and Charlie. Las Vegas watch out!



Creating a Caring School Community World Food and Culture Morning

One of the highlights of the year is the World food and culture morning when we celebrate the cultural diversity of our school community. Parents and students prepare food to celebrate our various cultures within our school community. For one day a year the GPA turns into a Michelin star restaurant with wonderful culinary contributions from parents and students alike.





Active Schools Week

This May the school was a buzz with good energy and activity during Active Schools Week. Drop everything and move, padel, podcasts and teacher vs student table tennis were just some of the activities. Sports Day was an enormous success with the widest programme of events to date! With ice cream for the students and coffees for the teachers everyone's wellbeing was being well catered for! The big news was the victory of the teachers in the Leaving Cert versus teachers football match. Mr Bell was victorious against Favour Aesmota in the Teachers versus Students table tennis final. To be fair, Favour had beaten our Principal and Vice Principal to get to the final!

Positive Behaviour

We are piloting a new Positive Behaviour programme in Drimnagh Castle this 2026! In consultation with students and staff we agreed on what Positive Behaviour looks like in our school. The three pillars are,

Improved Effort

Improved effort is recognised and rewarded when students show improvement in classwork and engagement. Follow instructions and make better behaviour choices across the school. Learn from mistakes through reflection and restorative conversations

Kindness

Kindness is explicitly taught and reinforced. It includes keeping hands to oneself, being respectful to teachers and staff, avoiding negative comments or put-downs, reading others' moods and showing empathy

Working Well

Being organised, concentrating on classwork, Speaking at the right time.

On Fridays teachers are endeavouring to turn the VS ware wheel green with positive comments.

KINDNESS
WHAT DOES KINDNESS LOOK LIKE IN DRIMNAGH CASTLE?

1. KEEP YOUR HANDS TO YOURSELF.
2. BE KIND TO TEACHERS.
3. KEEP ANY NEGATIVE COMMENTS TO YOURSELF.
4. READ OTHER STUDENTS' MOODS.

IMPROVED EFFORT
WHAT DOES IMPROVED EFFORT LOOK LIKE IN DRIMNAGH CASTLE?

- IMPROVED EFFORT IN CLASSWORK
- IMPROVED EFFORT IN BEHAVIOUR IN ALL AREAS OF THE SCHOOL
- LEARNING FROM YOUR MISTAKES

Inspiring Transformational Leadership

Valentino Valente won TAP student of the Year at the Bridge To College Graduation in Trinity College! What makes it even more impressive is that there are over 20 schools involved with approximately 200 students. Congratulations also to Conor Nolan who made the top 5 short list for student of the year! Two excellent students that are a credit to our school.



Ennis CBS Primary School

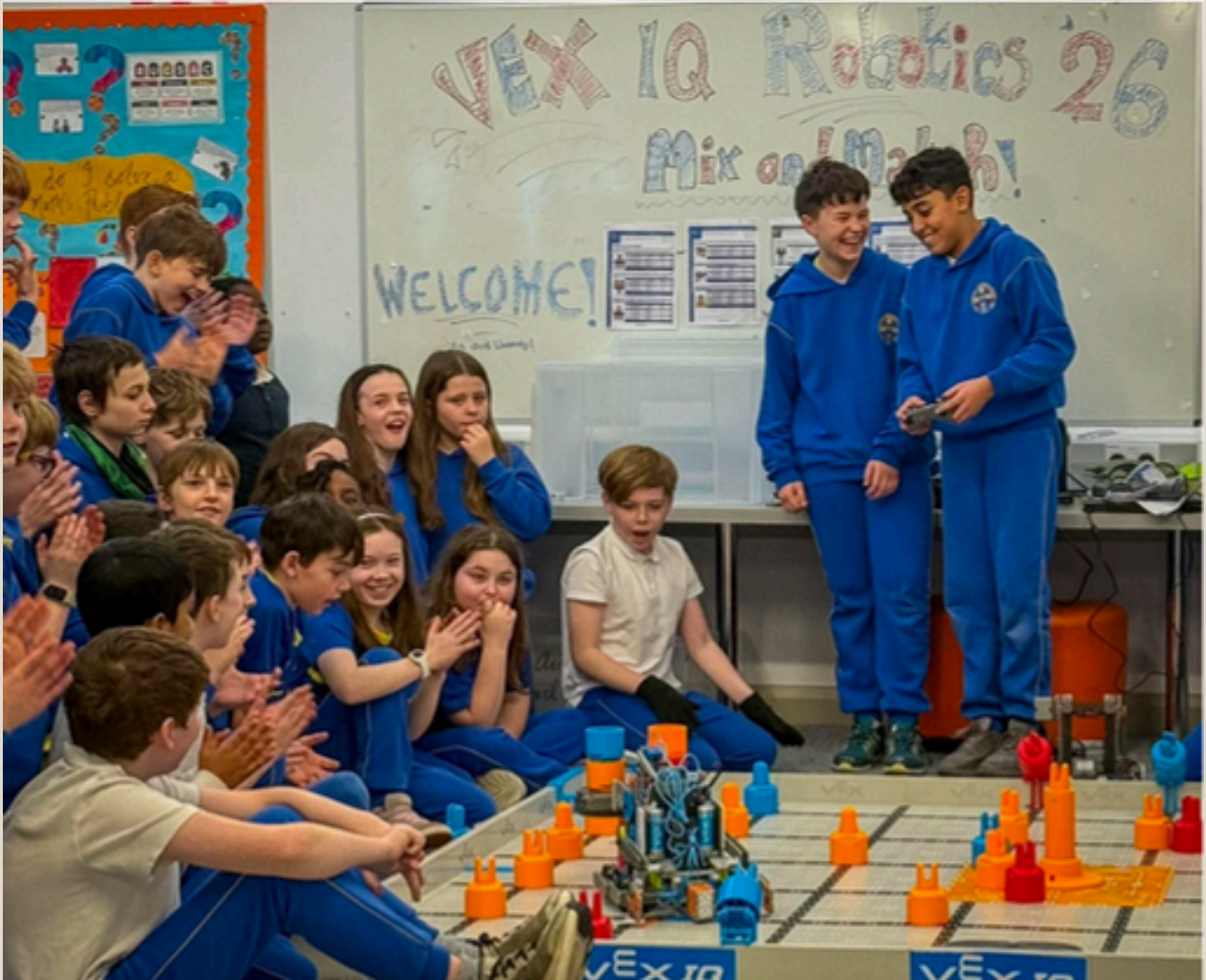
VEX Robotics World Final

It has been an exceptional year at CBS Primary, with achievements at regional, national and now world level. Yet one achievement stands out above all — our VEX Robotics team's remarkable win at the World Championships in St Louis Missouri, where they received the prestigious "Build" Award.

This honour celebrates outstanding teamwork and collaboration, qualities that defined our 6th Class students throughout the project. Every 6th class pupil played a key role — from fundraising and research to design, construction, and coding. Their dedication and creativity shone through, and the judges clearly saw the passion behind their work.

Competing against over 500 teams from 60 countries, our students rose to the challenge and made CBS Primary history. We couldn't be prouder of their hard work, innovation, and the spirit of cooperation that brought them — and our school — to this incredible milestone.





Intel Mini Scientist Ireland- Grand Final Winners 2026

What an extraordinary achievement for Francisco, Aidan and Sam from Ms. Brid Anne Ryan's 5th class for their project 'How Does a Catapult Work?'

To be crowned national champions at the Intel Mini Scientist Award 2026 is a phenomenal accomplishment and a reflection of their creativity, teamwork, curiosity and dedication. Their work in science, engineering, construction and coding reaching the very highest standard in the country is something the entire school community can celebrate with enormous pride.

Congratulations as well to Ms. Brid Anne Ryan and everyone who supported the project along the way. Achievements like this inspire younger students and showcase the incredible talent and innovation within the school.

A truly historic day for the school — well done to all involved!





Edmund Rice Team Spirit at CBS Ennis

Over the past number of weeks and months, our boys' and girls' football, hurling/camogie and soccer teams have represented the school community with tremendous pride, commitment and determination. While results on the scoreboard may not always have gone in our favour, the attitude, resilience and spirit shown by every player have been truly inspiring. Their positivity, teamwork and relentless work ethic are qualities that extend far beyond sport and will stand to them throughout their lives.

Each match and training session has reflected the strong sense of community, encouragement and camaraderie that exists within our school. The dedication shown by our students, whether in victory or defeat, has been a wonderful example of sportsmanship and respect for others. In many ways, these values mirror the Edmund Rice ethos that is at the heart of our school — promoting inclusion, perseverance, compassion and striving to be the very best version of ourselves both on and off the pitch.

A huge amount of credit must also go to the teachers and coaches who give so generously of their time and energy to support our students. Their commitment, consistency and encouragement play a vital role in creating such positive experiences for our young people, and we are extremely fortunate to have such dedicated staff here at the CBS.

Well done to all involved and we look forward to seeing our teams continue to grow and develop throughout the year. CBS abú!



Féile Scoildramaíochta All-Ireland Final

Mr. O'Reilly's 5th Class recently represented the school at the All-Ireland Féile Scoildramaíochta in Mullingar. It was the first time the school had entered this competition since 1998. The festival featured performances entirely through Irish, with most participating schools being Gaelscoileanna.

The class performed exceptionally well, delivering their play 'Charlie agus an Monarcha Seacláide' with great confidence and fluency, and speaking Irish to an impressively high standard throughout the performance. Comhghairdeas daoibh go léir!





CBC Social Justice & Advocacy Group visit to Geneva 2026

Well done to Fifth Year Student Ambassadors Cathal Lyons, Conor O' Loughlin and Leon O' Connell who represented CBC in Geneva last week. The boys visited the Red Cross Museum where they learned about how the Red Cross supports humanitarian aid in areas that have suffered war and genocide. They also attended a session of the Human Rights Council at the UN. This was followed by a visit to the Edmund Rice International Offices where the students engaged in reflective discussions with other School Ambassadors.





(Left to Right): Finn Harnedy, William Kelleher, Adam Nagle, Daniel Aherne, Tom McRae , Will Manley, Matias O Connail, Luke Flanagan, Charles Kaar, Matthew Lordon , Dalton Care, Thomas MacMullan.

Meitheal Team

Twelve Fourth Year students were recently selected by interview to partake in the S.C.A.L.A. (Redemptorist) Meitheal Youth Leadership Programme. The students completed four intensive training days in The Redemptorist House, Blackrock, where they developed skills in peer leadership, mentoring, organization, and teamwork. They trained with a number of other Cork schools, and developed friendships and social networks that will support and inspire them throughout next year.

The Meitheal Team will commence its work when the students begin Fifth Year. The Meitheal Team plays a major role in the Christian Life of the C.B.C. community through its presence and example. Its members' primary role is to act as 'big brothers' to incoming First Years, and to help them settle in to CBC. They achieve this through organizing a monthly event for the First Years, and through class visits. Their secondary role is to represent the CBC community at funerals, where they provide a guard of honour when appropriate.

Soccer

The 2025/26 season will be etched in the history books of **Christian Brothers College (CBC) Cork** as the year they became a dominant force in Irish schools' soccer. In a whirlwind campaign, CBC secured a historic **treble**, capturing the Cork Cup, the Munster Senior Cup, and the ultimate prize: the **FAI Schools Dr. Tony O'Neill National Senior Cup**.

The road to the All-Ireland title was a masterclass in resilience. A dramatic Munster final victory over Douglas Community School was achieved on penalties 5-3, once Captain Finn Dalton equalised after CBC fell behind. The reward for winning our first Senior Munster Title was a National Cup semi Final versus Leinster Champions Wexford CBS. Another nail biting affair was won 3-2 with goals from Liam Lynch, Finn Dalton and Max Murphy securing our place in the National Final. Connacht champions Coláiste Bhaile Chláir were our opponents in the national decider at Mounthawk Park. Despite being reduced to ten men in extra time, CBC's defensive grit took the game to penalties. Goalkeeper **Harry Walsh** emerged as the hero, saving two spot-kicks, while Captain **Finn Dalton, Donal O Connor, Max Murphy** and **Calum Carroll** held their nerve to secure the school's first-ever national soccer crown.



CBC Sports Day April 27th 2026

CBC's Lansdowne Sports Complex hosted the annual Sports Day in glorious sunshine again this year. A large attendance ensured that there was great competition across all events. This was particularly evident at the start line of many of the track events – with a great sense of anticipation before the races. It was fantastic to see students from all year groups entering so many events, giving it a go! The Sports Day is about enjoyment of participating in sports and having great fun in the process. The day concluded with the Teachers versus Sixth Year Soccer Match, ending 2-1 to the teachers in what was an enjoyable, spirited game!



Darkness Into Light

CBC as a school community is proud to take part in and support the annual Darkness Into Light campaign organised by Pieta House, to raise funds for suicide prevention and awareness of the impacts it has on those affected by suicide in Ireland.

The CBC Wellbeing Committee organised the walk. Posters, social media posts and word of mouth were used to invite all members of the school community. This included students, parents, staff, past pupils, neighbours and more. All were welcome to join in walking from the night into the breaking dawn. It was a powerful morning, a positive atmosphere was generated by the walkers, and a wonderful song was performed upon our return to the school by George O'Mahony, a Sixth Year Student.

We were delighted to raise over two thousand euro this year for Pieta House.

CBC would like to extend an invitation to next year's Darkness into Light to any member of the Edmund Rice Schools Trust.



Gaelbhratach

This year saw the introduction of the Gaelbhratach scheme in CBC. This is an initiative supported by Gael Linn which promotes the use of the Irish language in schools in a fun and informal way. Students enjoyed a range of activities throughout the year, including quizzes, Irish-language movies, poster competitions and much more. On May 12th, two students, Bréanainn Ó Dálaigh and Eoin Ó Beirne, accompanied by the Gaelbhratach coordinator, Ms Elaine Hammond, accepted the Gaelbhratach flag at a ceremony in Mary Immaculate College, Limerick. Comhghairdeas ó chroí le lucht CBC!

The Gold Medal Debate

On Friday 8th May, the college proudly hosted the annual CBC Gold Medal Debate, an evening that showcased the outstanding debating talent and public speaking ability of our students through two highly engaging debates.

We were delighted to welcome Fionnán Sheahan as our guest speaker. As Ireland Editor of the Irish Independent, he writes extensively on current affairs and politics, is a weekly columnist with the newspaper, and also presents the Indo Daily podcast.

The Prize Debate considered the motion: "That This House Believes That the Development of Artificial Intelligence Poses a Greater Threat to Society than its Benefits," with students debating one of the most significant issues facing modern society. The Gold Medal Debate addressed the motion: "That this House Regrets the Demise of Irish Representative Politics," prompting thoughtful and compelling discussion.

Congratulations to Cathal Walsh (Fifth Year), winner of the Gold Medal Debate, with Sean McSweeney (Sixth Year) named runner-up. Congratulations also to Filip Kryzanowski (First Year), winner of the Prize Debate, and Sam Brogan O'Farrell (First Year), who was runner-up, as well as Isaac Scallan-Cotter, winner of the Br Elliot Declamation Prize.

Sci-Fest

Ten students represented CBC at SciFest in MTU, presenting innovative projects across the Life Sciences, Technology and Physical Sciences categories.

Third Year student Cillian Ó Riordáin presented Against the Herd: Cooperative Routing for Cork City, investigating whether traffic congestion in Cork City could be reduced through system optimum routing rather than the individual route optimisation used by navigation apps such as Google Maps and Waze. His project explored whether reducing overall network travel time across all drivers could create a more efficient traffic system without requiring unreasonable detours for individual drivers. Cillian was named overall winner of SciFest MTU and will represent the region at the SciFest National Finals in Dublin later this year.

Fifth Year students Cathal Lyons and Raed Nasser presented Launching Ireland's Future: Astronomy for the Leaving Certificate, a project examining how astronomy could be more effectively promoted within senior cycle education in Ireland. Their project received the ESERO Ireland Discover Space Student Award. Their teacher, Ms Michelle O'Brien, was also recognised with the ESERO Ireland Discover Space Teacher Award.



**Back: Nikhil Sundaram, Ibrihim Naseer, Ewan Twohig, Cillian Power and Oisín Bosz
Front: Cillian Ó Ríordáin, Raed Naseer, Cathal Lyons, finn Harnedy and Ruairi Golden**



Cillian Ó Ríordáin receiving the overall winner award from Sheila Porter, founder and CEO of SciFest



Raed Naseer and Cathal Lyons, along with their teacher Ms Michelle O'Brien

Fourth Year student Finn Harnedy presented Modelling Traction Saturation During Combined Braking and Steering, investigating why vehicles can suddenly lose control on icy roads when braking and steering at the same time. Using a physics-based vehicle model, Finn examined how braking timing and brake bias influence tyre grip and vehicle stability, with the aim of identifying the conditions that lead from controlled motion to instability.

Also representing Fourth Year, Nikhil Sundaram explored sustainable agriculture through Biochar Boost: Optimising Biochar Application for Sustainable Agriculture and Soil Health. His project investigated how varying concentrations of biochar affected plant growth and soil moisture retention, while also examining biochar's potential role in improving soil sustainability and storing carbon.

Second Year students Ibrahim Naseer and Ruairí Golden presented projects exploring human behaviour and environmental awareness. Ibrahim's project, Think Before You Flush, Brush, Wash, examined the importance of everyday actions in protecting the environment and promoting sustainable habits. Ruairí's project, Why Do People Fear Insects?, investigated the psychological and evolutionary factors that contribute to common insect phobias.

First Year students Oisín Bosz, Ewan Twohig and Cillian Power combined physics and music in Keys VS Strings: The Piano VS The Viola, Which Produces More Harmonic Overtones. Using sound analysis, graphs and frequency data, the group compared the harmonic structures produced by both instruments to determine which created the richer range of overtones.

CBC's outstanding performance at SciFest highlighted the students' creativity, innovation and dedication to scientific inquiry, while also reflecting the strong culture of research, critical thinking and problem-solving that continues to develop within the school.

Portlaoise CBS



Senior Debating National Champions!

Massive congratulations to our senior debaters on winning the Griffith College Faculty of Law National Competition - an incredible achievement and a perfect ending to six years of dedication, commitment and excellence.

Throughout their time in our school, these students have been the very definition of student voice in action - confident, articulate and unafraid to speak with purpose. They have represented St Mary's CBS with immense pride at every stage of their journey.

A special word of recognition to four outstanding individuals:

Harry McGree - a true leader whose presence, composure and sharp thinking has guided the team throughout the years.

Jack Heffernan - consistently insightful and composed, bringing intelligence and clarity to every debate.

Tom Delaney - passionate and driven, never afraid to challenge ideas and push arguments to the highest level.

Andrew Coyne - a confident and compelling speaker, whose dedication and growth has been evident throughout his time on the team.

A special mention must also go to Ms Hyland who has guided and supported these students since their very first days in 1st Year.

It was an emotional day as this remarkable group brought their six-year journey to a fitting and unforgettable close.

We cannot thank you enough for everything you have given to debating and to our school. Your legacy will live on long after you leave our classrooms.

We are immensely proud of you all.



A Heartfelt Goodbye to Ms. Katrina Foley

On an emotional Monday in May we celebrated and honoured the remarkable career of Ms. Katrina Foley, whose impact on St. Mary's CBS and the wider school community will be felt for generations to come.

Ms. Foley began her journey in Tower Hill in August 1995, embarking on what would become 31 years of extraordinary service, dedication and care for the students and staff of our school community.

For over three decades, Katrina gave so much more than lessons in a classroom.

She gave compassion, leadership, guidance and heart. Through her work with our student leadership groups and her unforgettable volunteering and immersion work in Zambia, she inspired generations of students to serve others with courage, humility and kindness.

As a passionate RE teacher and faith leader, Katrina ensured that the Catholic ethos of St. Mary's CBS remained a living cornerstone of our school community, reminding us all of the strength found in faith, prayer and togetherness during both joyful and difficult times.

Ms Foley, thank you for the memories, the laughter, the wisdom and the unwavering dedication you brought to St. Mary's CBS every single day. Wishing you every happiness and blessing in your retirement and here's hoping you visit your CBS family often.

We'll miss you Ms. Foley



2nd Year Footballers - LEINSTER CHAMPIONS!

A massive congratulations to our 2nd Year footballers who were crowned Leinster 'B' Champions following a superb victory over Ardee CS.

Final Score - 6-12 to 4-3

This talented group delivered a brilliant performance, showing skill, determination and teamwork throughout to bring the title back to Portlaoise.



HISTORY MADE!

Our 2nd Year hurlers have etched their names into the history books, becoming South Leinster 'C' Hurling Champions!

In a titanic battle from start to finish, both sides showed incredible grit and determination in a nail-biting encounter, with St. Mary's CBS edging it 3:12 to 3:11

A brilliant result in a war-like contest — this group of lads are fully deserving of their success after a fantastic year of commitment and effort!

Huge congratulations to the team and their coaches Mr Duff and Mr Bergin



First Year Winners - Student Enterprise National Final!

Very well done to our 1st Year superstars, Paddy Lynch and Tom McDonald, who came 1st in the Student Enterprise National Final.

The boys won the Junior Category Overall Winner award as well as the Intellectual Property Award.

Their business, I-CAN, is a door-to-door can and bottle collection service. They collect cans and bottles from customers' homes, return them to the DRS machines, give customers 75% of their deposit back, and keep 25% as their service fee.

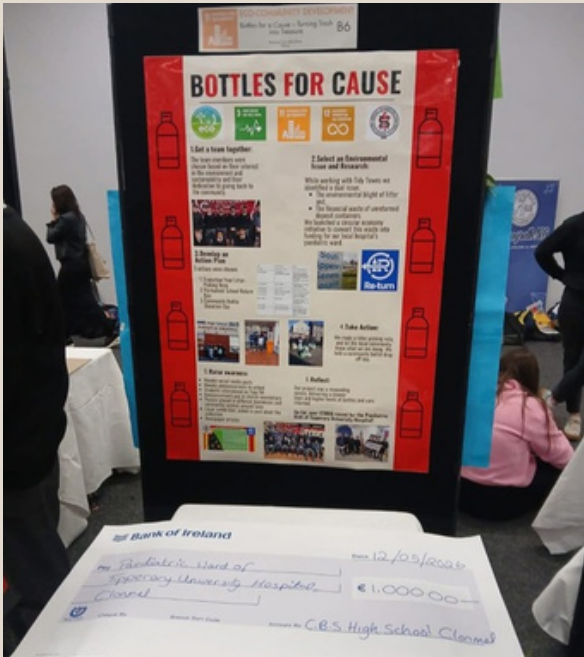
Their goal is to make recycling easier, help the local community, and support a cleaner environment. Since starting I-CAN, they have completed over 100 collections and returned more than 20,000 bottles and cans.

We are incredibly proud of you both here in St Mary's CBS!

High School Clonmel

Unesco Young Environmentalist Awards

TYs had an excellent day at the Unesco Young Environmentalist Awards today. Unfortunately they didn't win but were absolutely thrilled to make it to the finals! Well done boys!



East Munster Schools Track and Field Championships

Well done to all of our students who recently represented the school at the East Munster Schools Track and Field Championships in Templemore. Our athletes took part in a variety of events, including sprints, middle distance running and throwing events such as the shot put. All involved can be very proud of the effort they put in on the day.

A special mention to Josef Podzimek, who finished second in the U16 mile after a superb run. He now progresses to the Munster Schools T&F event in Castleisland next weekend. A fantastic achievement Josef!



Model United Nations

Delegates and chaperones at the Junior Davis College Model United Nations conference.

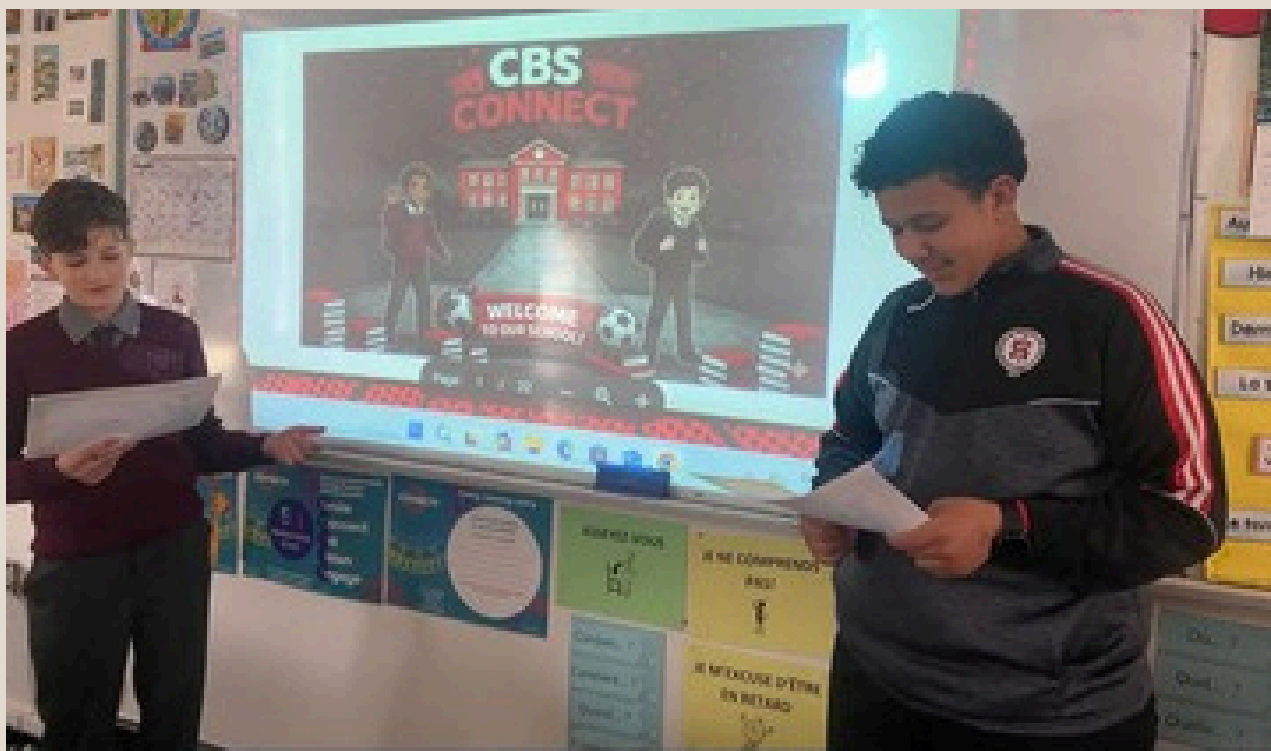
Congratulations to Joe O'Brien and Cillian Flavin, who both received awards in recognition of their excellent participation and contribution throughout the conference. Their achievements were a credit to themselves and to the school. Well done boys!



Ignite Programme

The YSI group has been busy taking part in the Ignite Programme, working hard to make the school more inclusive for everyone. They've officially launched student-friendly welcome booklets translated into our top 10 languages and created a digital hub for all school info and weekly updates. This week, the students presented the entire project to YSI Leaders, showcasing all the work that went into CBS CONNECT. @ysi.

Well done lads!!



Coláiste Íosagáin Baile Átha Cliath

Bhí an-chuid ar siúl i gColáiste Íosagáin le cúpla mí anuas agus an scoil ag obair i dteannta grúpaí agus eagraíochtaí éagsúla fud fad na tíre le sároideachas Gaelach agus Críostaíoch a mhúnlú. Is téarma iontach gnóthach é an téarma deireanach agus bhí daltaí agus múinteoirí na scoile ag obair go dícheallach mar is gnáth. Is féidir léamh mar gheall ar na hathruithe agus mar gheall ar ár bhforbairt scoile, thíos.



Le teacht an tsamhraidh, rinneadh ceiliúradh machnamhach nuair a mhaisigh daltaí Chomhairle na ndaltaí Crann na Bealtaine ar an láthair scoile.

Thugamar féin an samhradh linn,
Samhradh buí na nóinín gléigeal,
Thugamar féin an samhradh linn.



Tá an Coiste Timpeallachta tar éis a bheith iontach gnóthach le tamaill anuas. An té nach gcuireann san earrach, ní bhaineann sé san fhómhar!





Cuairt na nAmbasadóirí

Bhí an-sceitimíní ar phobal na scoile le déanaí nuair a tháinig beirt chuariteoirí chun na scoile: Ambasadóir na Gréige, Georgios Stilianopoulos agus an tAire Stáit, Thomas Byrne. Labhair siad linn faoi Uachtaránacht ar Chomhairle an Aontais Eorpaigh atá le teacht in Éirinn. Leagadh béim ar na deiseanna atá ann do mhic léinn le teangacha san Eoraip. Bhí seisiún 'ceisteanna agus freagraí', ceol, agus amhránaíocht ann agus ba iontach an ócáid í.

Ar bharr orthu sin, tháinig ambasadóir na Beilge, Nicolas Nihon, chun na scoile le linn Fhéile Lá le Pádraig agus rinneadh ceiliúradh ar na nascanna idir Éire agus an Bheilg. Is cinnte go bhfuil ceangail idirnáisiúnta láidre ag Coláiste Íosagáin i láthair na huaire.



Ceoldráma Choláiste Eoin agus Íosagáin 2026

D'oibrigh daltaí na hIdirbhliana i bpáirt le daltaí Idirbhliana Choláiste Eoin le ceoldráma den scoth, An Cailín ón nGaoth (Mary Poppins), a chur ar stáitse i mbliana. Le blianta fada anuas is cuid lárnach de chlár na hIdirbhliana é an ceoldráma. Ba chúis mhórtais don phobal scoile cur chuige dhaltaí na hIdirbhliana sa dá choláiste agus tá moladh ag dul dóibh as a gcuid oibre i mbun ealaíne, ceoil, aisteoireachta, bainistíochta stáitse agus na cúraimí eile go léir a bhaineann le seó den scoth a chur os comhair an phobail. Tá a mbród as a n-iarrachtaí tuillte go maith acu.

Tá buíochas ar leith tuillte freisin ag Iníon Uí Arrachtáin, a bhí mar stiúrthóir ar an gceoldráma agus a bhí i bhfeighil ar chóiréagrafaíocht an léiriúcháin. Maraon léi, ba mhaith leis an dá scoil aitheantas speisialta a thabhairt do Julian Hills (seit agus stáitse), do Aoife Ní Nualláin (Feisteas), do Thomás Ó Dubhurthuile, do Róisín Nic Pháidín (Feisteas & Smideadh & Bainistiú Stáitse), d'Aoibheann Nic Giolla Ríogh (Prapaí) agus do Chormac Ó Bréartúin (Prapaí) a rinne obair dhian leis an gceoldráma seo a chur ar an stáitse anocht. Ba mhaith linn, freisin, ár mbuíochas a ghabháil le Mairéad Ní Dhúchon a chabhraigh le haistriúchán na scripte. Léiriú den scoth a bhí ann.





Coláiste Íosagáin ag Ardfheis na nÓg

D'fhreastail seisear ó Bhliain 5 (Nicole Ní Dhúlaing, Izobel Ní Thiarnáin, Caoileann Ní Dhuibhir, Aobha de Róiste, Róise Nig Cuill, agus Emily Ní Mhaoilmhiaigh) ar Ardfheis na nÓg, eagraithe ag Conradh na Gaeilge, sa Roinn i bPort Láirge. Bhuail na daltaí le scoláirí eile ón nGaeltacht agus ó Ghaelcholáistí eile fud fad na tíre. Is é plé agus smaointeoireacht mar gheall ar thábhacht agus ar thodhchaí na Gaeilge príomhaidhm na Feise. D'fhreastail an grúpa ar cheardlanna, cainteanna, céilí agus eile agus rinne siad cur i láthair mar gheall ar earcaíocht san earnáil phoiblí. Úsáideadh agallaimh agus suirbhé chun eolais a bhailiú. Dhírigh na cailíní isteach ar chúrsaí oideachais agus d'aithin siad go bhfuil bearna ollmhór i méid na gcúrsaí atá ar fáil trí Ghaeilge ag an tríú leibhéal.

Chomh maith leis sin, mhínigh na cailíní an tsuim atá acu sa Ghaeilge agus i gcultúr na hÉireann, bhí na moltóirí an-tógtha leis an taighde agus na fíricí spéisiúla a bhí ag na cailíní agus d'éirigh leo an duais don taighde is fearr a bhaint amach. Is cinnte go raibh "tógáil pobail" á déanamh ag na feisirí óga seo agus tá ardmholadh tuillte acu agus ag Iníon Uí Mhaoldomhnaigh a thug chun na hócáide agus a thacaigh leo le linn an taighde.



Cuairt ar an Amharclann agus léiriú Poor le Bliain 3

D'fhreastal an tríú bliain ar léiriú den dráma *The Merchant of Venice* sa 'Clasac Theatre'. Cúpla focal anseo scríofa ag Ellen Ní Shúilleabháin, a chonaic an dráma: "Bhí mé fhéin agus mo rang ar bís chun taisteal go dtí an seó idirghníomhach seo darb ainm 'Shakesperience'. Tá an seó dírithe ar chabhair a thabhairt do dhaltaí atá chun an Teastas Shóisearach a dhéanamh, tuiscint níos fearr a fháil ar *The Merchant of Venice* scríofa ag Shakespeare, dar ndóigh. D'fhoghlaim mé a lán ó na haisteoirí fad is a mhínigh siad conas gur féidir le rudaí cosúil le comharthaíochtaí coirp, feisteas, agus soilsíú, tionchar a bheith acu ar an dearcadh atá ag an lucht féachana ar an seó. Bhain mé an-taitneamh as an seó agus d'fhoghlaim mé a lán téarmaí nua..."



Is taispeántas drámatúil cumhachtach é *Poor*, a cuireadh i láthair in Amharclann an Gheata, bunaithe ar shaothar dírbheathaisnéiseach Katriona O'Sullivan. Insíonn an dráma scéal a hóige agus í ag fás aníos i gcúinsí fíordheacra, áit a raibh bochtanas agus andúil mar chuid laethúil dá saol. Bhí an t-ádh ar dhaltaí ó Bhlíain 3 gur fhéach siad ar an mbeoshruthú den léiriú seo, a bhí thar a bheith corraitheach agus machnamhach. Léiríodh go hionraic ann na dúshláin agus na constaicí a bhíonn roimh pháistí i dteaghlaigh atá faoi mhíbhuntáiste, agus chuir sé léargas domhain ar fáil ar an tionchar a bhíonn ag an mbochtanas ar shaol an duine ó aois an-óg. Spreag an dráma smaointeoireacht agus plé i measc na ndaltaí.

Comórtas Náisiúnta Scileanna Gairme

I mbliana, bhí an deis ag gach dalta san idirbhliain i gColáiste Íosagáin cur isteach ar an gComórtas Náisiúnta Scileanna Gairme a reáchtáiltear ag Careers Portal chuile bliain. Chun cur isteach ar an gcomórta, bhí ar na daltaí tuairisc a scríobh faoi thaithí oibre agus imscrúdú gairme a dhéanamh. Bhuaigh Grace Nic Mhathúna an comórtas seo. Roghnaigh sí tuairisc a dhéanamh ar a taithí oibre san iarsmalann EPIC i mBaile Átha Cliath toisc gur bhain sí an oiread sin taitneamh as. Rinne sí imscrúdú ar ghairm an ghinealeolaí. Is éard is ginealeolaí ann ná duine a dhéanann staidéar ar shliocht daoine agus ar theaghlaigh trí fhéachaint ar fhoinsí cosúil le taifid daonáirimh. D'éirigh le Grace an chéad áit a bhaint amach sa chatagóir Gaeilge den chomórtas. Tugadh cuireadh di freastal ar an mbronnadh sa Roinn Oideachais in éineacht lena tuismitheoirí, príomhoide na scoile, treoirchomhairleoir na scoile agus na buaiteoirí eile. Bhronn Careers Portal duais €1,000 ar an scoil agus duais ríomhaire ar Grace. Dar le Grace – “Mholfainn go láidir do ghach scoil tacú lena ndaltaí páirt a ghlacadh sa chomórtas an bhliain seo chugainn.”

Tá éacht déanta aici. Molaimid í!



Ó Dhólás go Sólás

Rinne pobal scoile Íosagáin ár siúlóid Ó Dhólás go Sólás go luath ar maidin 27 Márta, ag siúl ó Dhumhach Thrá go dtí láthair na scoile. Sheas daltaí agus múinteoirí le chéile d'éirí na gréine agus rinneadh tiomsú airgid do na carthanachtaí, Pieta agus Jigsaw. Ba shiombail chumhachtach í éirí na gréine a léirigh dóchas agus a chuir i gcumhne dúinn go dtagann solas tar éis an dorchadais i gcónaí.





Gaisce

Mar chuid den chlár Gaisce, thug grúpa Idirbhliana faoi shléibhteoireacht ar Shlí Shléibhte Bhaile Átha Cliath ag deireadh mhí Aibreáin. Bhí an t-ádh leo leis an aimsir agus an ghrian ag scoilteadh na gcloch. Is cinnte go raibh na daltaí spíonta i ndiaidh na siúlóide ach bhí an-chraic go deo acu thuas ar barr na gcnoc.



Oíche na hIdirbhliana

Bhí bronnadh, aithisc agus ceiliúradh ag lucht na hIdirbhliana ag tús mhí na Bealtaine ar Oíche na hIdirbhliana. Tháinig ár n-iardhalta, an t-eagarthóir, Úna Ní Dhonghaile, isteach le haitheasc inspioráideach a thabhairt don bhliainghrúpa. Phléigh sí a cuid taithí oibre agus an buntáiste ar tugadh di agus oideachas Gaelach faighte aici ar scoil. Bhí sé mar onóir dúinn Úna a fheiceáil arís agus táimid iontach buíoch di as teacht agus labhairt leis na daltaí. Léiríodh gaiscí agus buaicpointí na bliana agus rinneadh ceiliúradh ar dhul chun cinn na ndaltaí ar an oíche. Buíochas le hEllen Nic Phiarais, Comhordaitheoir na hIdirbhliana, agus leis na gcoiste as a gcuid oibre le linn na bliana.



Díospóireachtaí

D'fhreastail foireann Bhliain 5 Chóláiste Íosagáin ar dhíospóireacht "MACE" i gColáiste na Tríonóide le déanaí. Comórtas do chailíní amháin a bhí i gceist leis an gcomórtas seo, ag díriú ar dhaltaí na hArdteiste / Bhliain 5. Pléadh rúin suimiúla agus ní raibh ach 15 nmd. ag na díospóirí ullmhú sular thit na cainteanna amach. Bhain Emma Ní Mhaoltuile agus Alice Sinclair an craobh amach. Bhain siad ar fad an-taitneamh as an lá agus d'fhoghlaim siad an-chuid.

Seachtain "Seas an Fód" i gcoinne Idirhealaithe

D'éirigh go hiontach le Seachtain "Seas an Fód" i mí Márta. Rinneadh cur i láthair mar gheall ar mheabhairshláinte, ar theacht aniar agus ar mhaistíneacht ag an Tionól Scoile ar 24 Aibreán. Bhuail na cairde Gaeilge Bhliain 6 agus 1 le chéile agus chuaigh siad ag siúl amuigh faoin aer, timpeall an cheantair. Eagraíodh seacláid te do lucht Bhliain 3 agus glacadh pictiúr de bhogha báistí na scoile le hilchineálacht an phobail scoile a léiriú. An-seachtain ar fad a bhí ann.



Bhí an-spraoi again le linn na seachtaine, ag úsáid cailce leis an gcúirt cispheile a mhai siú le teachtaireachtaí dearfacha.



An Phicnic Leictreach

Bhí ár bPicnic Leictreach féin againn ar scoil i bpáirt le Coláiste Eoin ar 14 Bealtaine. Bhí grian, báisteach, uachtar reoite agus ceol den scoth ar fáil ar an lá! Is léir go bhfuil bua an cheoil i gcroílár chultúir an phobail scoile. Comhghairdeas le chuile dhuine a ghlac páirt agus buíochas mór leis na cinnirí agus leis na múinteoirí as an eagrúchán ar fad.



Eurofís na Sóisear

Bhí tráthnóna den chéad scoth ag na sóisir i mí Aibreáin agus iad ag tabhairt faoin gcomórtas amhráin ranga, Eurofís. Ní hamháin go raibh neart tallainne á taispeáint acu bhí cairdeas, cineáltas agus teanga shaibhir le brath ar an lá freisin. Táimid an-mhórtasach astu ar fad. Tá comhghairdeas faoi leith ag dul go dtí 1 Bréannan, 2 Cróine agus 3 Life, buaiteoirí an lae.

Lá Mór Spóirt 2026

Eagraíodh Lá Mór Spóirt arís i gColáiste Íosagáin i mbliana agus d'éirigh thar barr leis an lá. Rinneadh foirne rangbhunaithe agus ghlac na daltaí páirt i gcomórtais chraiceáilte cosúil le "seachain an liathróid, rásanna sealáíochta, rásanna jenga, liathróid lámha" agus eile. Rinneadh damhsa mór, an Dreoilín, ag deireadh an lae agus bhí solas na gréine ag lonrú ar an spraoi, ar an gcaic agus ar an gceiliúradh. Buíochas mór leis na captaein spóirt, Rebekah agus Sophie a d'eagraigh na himeachtaí. Buíochas mór freisin leis na múinteoirí ar fad a chabhraigh ar an lá.



Slán le Bliain 6 agus Bua na Múinteoirí

Tá traidisiún seanbhunaithe ann i gColáiste Íosagáin go mbíonn cluiche eitpheile daltaí in aghaidh múinteoirí i mí Bealtaine. Leanadh leis an nós sin i mbliana le bua láidir ag foireann na múinteoirí in ainneoin iarrachtaí cróga na mac léinn. Bhí spiorad scoile álainn le feiceáil agus le brath ar an lá.



Midleton CBS Secondary School

Edmund Rice First Year Awards

Midleton CBS was proud to introduce the inaugural First Year Edmund Rice Awards this year, an initiative designed to celebrate not only academic success, but also the character, values, and positive contributions of our students to school life. Developed with the support of Deputy Principal Mr. Casey, First Year Head Mr. Cooney, and the First Year tutor team, the awards were created to reflect and promote the five pillars of the Edmund Rice Charter that are central to life in Midleton CBS Secondary School. As a first-year tutor, teaching first-year Irish and coaching first-year basketball and football, Ms. Fitzgerald had the opportunity to get to know the students well throughout the year. Through this involvement, she recognised the importance of creating an initiative that celebrated not only academic achievement, but also the qualities students demonstrate every day beyond the classroom — including kindness, leadership, resilience, encouragement of others, and a willingness to contribute positively to school life.

Each round of the awards focused on one of the five pillars of the Edmund Rice ethos. January's awards celebrated Nurturing Faith, Christian Spirituality and Gospel-Based Values, recognising students who consistently displayed kindness, honesty, respect, inclusion, and care for others through their everyday actions. The second round focused on Promoting Partnership, highlighting students who demonstrated teamwork, encouragement, and support for their classmates, helping to create a positive and inclusive atmosphere within the year group.



Our third round celebrated Excellence in Teaching and Learning. These awards recognised students who approached their learning with enthusiasm, determination, and a willingness to improve. Their engagement, perseverance, and positive attitude towards learning served as an example to others and helped foster vibrant and supportive classroom environments.

Most recently, we celebrated the fourth pillar — Creating a Caring School Community. This award acknowledged students whose small, everyday acts of kindness make a meaningful difference within our school. These boys consistently supported others without seeking recognition, helping to create a welcoming and caring environment for all members of our community.



The impact of the initiative throughout the year has been extremely positive. Alongside the first-year tutors, we noticed a significant improvement in students' attitudes, behaviour, and encouragement of one another. The awards helped to foster a culture where positive actions were recognised and valued. Particularly memorable was the atmosphere during each awards presentation, where students were genuinely proud of and excited for one another's achievements. It created a real sense of belonging, encouragement, and community spirit among the year group.

We are incredibly proud of how our first-year students have settled into life at Midleton CBS and of the example they continue to set each day. The success of the First Year Edmund Rice Awards has reinforced the importance of celebrating the values at the heart of an Edmund Rice education, and we look forward to continuing and developing the initiative in the years ahead.

Harvard University Course- Christianity through the Scriptures

Congratulations to senior students Timothy Jarosz, Harry O'Donovan, and Kien McCarthy on their successful completion of the Harvard University online course Christianity through the Scriptures during the academic year. Guided and supported by Ms Sweeney, the students demonstrated great commitment and enthusiasm in engaging with this challenging and enriching programme. Their achievement reflects both their dedication to learning and their willingness to further explore faith, scripture, and religious understanding beyond the classroom.



GAA Future Leaders Programme

The GAA Future Leaders Transition Year (TY) programme at Midleton CBS has successfully concluded its second year. Run in partnership with the GAA and Oide, this module was completed by all TY students again this year. The course is designed to provide students with leadership, organisation, and life skills through the lens of Gaelic games.

Throughout the year, our students completed specialised modules in Nutrition, Performance Analysis, Refereeing, and Event Management. The maturity, dedication, and initiative shown by this year's cohort culminated in the execution of four major school and community events, cementing the value of the Future Leaders programme within our school culture in Midleton CBS.

1. Nutrition Module & TY Activities Day

Students explored the vital role of dietary health in athletic performance and everyday well-being. This module culminated in a TY Activities Day, which featured a GAA skills challenge, a PlayStation tournament, team games, and an interactive nutrition talk. During the nutrition talk, students focused on healthy eating habits and put their knowledge into practice by creating their own customised, healthy fruit and yogurt bowls.

2. Performance Analysis Module

Students learned the technical aspects of sports science, focusing on how data and match analysis drive success for elite teams. As part of their assessment, students analysed a match and compiled a detailed statistical report.

The knowledge gained in this module was directly utilised by Midleton CBS school sports teams, with TY students providing invaluable statistical tracking and feedback to team mentors throughout the season.

3. Refereeing Module

This module taught students the rules of the GAA, conflict resolution, and decision-making under pressure. The skills learned here provided the foundation for students to safely and effectively officiate matches later in the year for our 5th class hurling blitz.

4. Event Management

The Event Management module was the absolute highlight of the year. The TY student body took ownership of planning, promoting, and executing four major initiatives.





The 2nd Annual Kacper Kozlowski Memorial Hurling Tournament

Held at the Aghada GAA Club, this tournament invited 1st-year hurling teams from across Cork and Munster to compete. The event holds a profound significance for our school community, as it honours the memory of past pupil Kacper Kozlowski, who would have been in 6th Year this year and who possessed a tremendous love for Gaelic games. Unfortunately Kacper passed away after illness a few years ago.

Our TY students acted as total professionals on the day of the tournament, fulfilling the roles of:

- Event Coordinators
- Scorekeepers, Line Umpires, and Score Umpires
- Photographers and Media Reporters
- Team Managers (handling the two Midleton CBS teams entered)
- Hospitality Hosts (providing refreshments to visiting teachers)

The day was an outstanding celebration of fun and high-quality hurling. Our Deputy Principal, Tracey Groome, was on hand to present the trophies to the winning captains and spoke beautifully to remember Kacper's enduring legacy at Midleton CBS. Midleton CBS emerged victorious in both the A and C finals, while St. Colman's College Fermoy won the competition's C final.

The School Spinathon Fundraiser

Our largest undertaking of the year was a massive, high-energy Spinathon held in Market Green Shopping Centre, Midleton on Friday, May 8th. The purpose of the event was dual-focused: to raise funds for our upcoming school gym renovation and to support the Dillon Quirke Foundation, a deeply worthy cause.



On Friday, May 8th, from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM, the event came to life. Over 50 students took part in total, keeping the momentum going by working in shifts where 4 students rode stationary bikes for 30 minutes each per slot. The energy was electric, and the visibility at Market Green allowed the public to see the incredible work ethic of our students firsthand.

Other events

Club Jersey & Retro Jersey Day: To publicise and build momentum for the Spinathon, the Future Leaders committee organised a school-wide jersey day. This event enjoyed incredible buy-in from students across all year groups and staff members alike, creating a vibrant atmosphere and boosting initial fundraising efforts. Students were encouraged to wear club jerseys and retro jerseys and great fun was had by all!

5th Class Hurling Blitz: In early May, TY students organised and hosted a hurling blitz for local primary schools. Actively applying their Refereeing and Event Management skills, the students ran a flawless tournament and received glowing feedback from the visiting 5th-class primary school teachers. This event also tied in nicely with our TYs work where they went into local primary schools to coach children through the year.

Wellbeing Week

We held our annual wellbeing week in Midleton CBS from Monday April 27th to Friday 1st May, with a wide range of activities that catered for both students and staff alike. The week highlighted how important all aspects of wellbeing are physical, mental, emotional and social in helping everyone to feel healthy, supported and connected within our school community.



Our 5th Year students took part in a Pilates session, while 1st, 2nd and 4th Years enjoyed a Morning Mile around our wellbeing walk. 3rd Year students attended a nutritional talk and sampled a healthy breakfast option designed to fuel both body and mind. Staff members were also treated to a healthy breakfast during the week.



As part of the celebrations, students wore yellow in support of Pieta House, and we were delighted to raise an incredible €487 for this very worthy cause. 'Hidden heroes' were also awarded with kindness certificates for their efforts throughout the week. Well done to everyone involved in making the week such a positive and enjoyable success.

Transition Year

Our TY students gathered together for one last time at the TY awards ceremony.

Our TY students have completed an action packed and memorable year where they pushed themselves outside their comfort zones, in and outside of the classroom.

Spirit of TY Award

The 'Spirit of TY Award' went to a very worthy recipient, Cal Flavin. Cal threw himself into every job and took every opportunity that came his way. Showed maturity beyond his years in finding solutions to problems teachers didn't even know existed!

Well done on a great year Cal and congratulations on a richly deserved award.



For the third consecutive year in Midleton CBS, TYs went skiing! In the first week of March, over one hundred students headed for the slopes of Folgaria, in Northern Italy. After a few stumbles, trips and falls (mainly from the teachers!) the lads took to skiing as if snow in Ireland was a regular occurrence. We sang, smiled and laughed our way up and down the slopes for six action packed days and made memories that will stay with us forever. A special thanks to Mr Casey for all his hard work behind the scenes to ensure the enjoyment of everyone involved.



Gaisce Bronze Awards

Our TY students recently enjoyed a fantastic two-day Gaisce Adventure Journey taking in some truly spectacular scenery across Co. Kerry and East Cork.

On Tuesday, they explored the hills above Rossbeigh Beach, where sweeping Atlantic views, golden stretches of sand, and the rugged Kerry coastline combined to create a stunning backdrop. With the sun shining, the landscape looked its absolute best, making the experience all the more memorable.

On Wednesday, they stayed closer to home, walking the Greenway to complete the fourth and final stage of their Gaisce challenge.

A huge well done to all the students for their dedication and commitment since September in completing all the requirements for this challenge.

North Monastery Coeducational Secondary School Cork

Edmund Rice Student Council Conference & Walk In My Shoes 2026

Unity was the theme for this year.

Thank you to Edmund Rice Schools Trust, Gerry Berry, Nóilín Ní Dhulaing & Billy Lynch for hosting the student conference in our school in March.



Many thanks also to all the schools who attended and presented at the conference. Thank you also our Student Council Coordinator Ms Dunlea, ERST Link Teacher Ms. Collins, the Student Council and all those in our school community who helped organise, set up, present, sang and practice for today. It just shows what working together can achieve. #UnityinCommunity. #nurturingfaith #promotingpartnership #excellinginteachingandlearning #creatingacaringschoolcommunity #inspiringtransformationalleadership



New Ross CBS

Mr Joe Bridges A lasting legacy of kindness, faith and friendship.

As Joe prepares to retire, it is difficult to capture in words the enormous impact he has had on the CBS community over so many years. What emerges most clearly from the many stories and reflections shared by colleagues and friends is a picture of a man who has given so much of himself to the school, to his students and to all those fortunate enough to work alongside him.



People who knew him spoke of Joe's extraordinary energy and vision as TY Coordinator. The Transition Year programme he developed in CBS was regarded as something truly special: innovative and engaging. Through his dedication and creativity, he completely transformed perceptions of TY, ensuring it became a meaningful and enriching experience for students. A recurring theme throughout many of the tributes was Joe's deep faith and the quiet but powerful way it shaped his life and work. His commitment to the values of Blessed Edmund Rice was not simply something he spoke about, it was something he lived every day through his kindness, humility, compassion and care for others.

Joe leaves behind not only a remarkable professional legacy, but also the deep affection and gratitude of an entire school community. He will be greatly missed as a colleague, mentor and friend. We wish him every happiness in the years ahead.

Most importantly, as many have already said: Joe, please don't be a stranger.





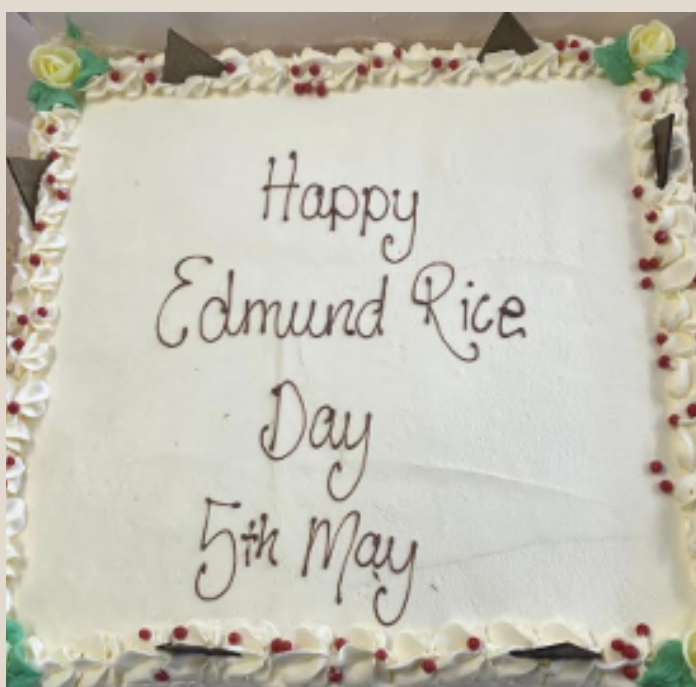
Bishop Ger visits to celebrate Blessed Edmund Rice Day

CBS New Ross was honoured to welcome Bishop Ger Nash to the school to celebrate Blessed Edmund Rice Day on Tuesday, 5th May 2026.

The visit, which had been arranged almost a year in advance due to Bishop Ger's busy schedule, provided a special opportunity for students and staff to reflect on the values and legacy of Blessed Edmund Rice and the importance of faith, community and service within school life.

Sincere thanks are extended to Ms Kelly, Mr Kavanagh, Ms Sinnott, Ms Ryan and Mr Bridges for their work in organising such a memorable occasion for our school community.

The day began with a short reflection on the life and mission of Blessed Edmund Rice shared over the intercom with the entire school community.



This was followed by a special flag ceremony involving First Year and Fifth Year students, where Bishop Ger spoke about the enduring legacy of Edmund Rice and the importance of living out values such as kindness, compassion, inclusion and service to others in our daily lives.

Following the ceremony, First Year students and their teachers visited St Stephen's Cemetery for a moment of reflection and prayer.

Fifth Year students later gathered with Bishop Nash in the Edmund Rice Room for an engaging discussion and reflection session, while Second Year students also had the opportunity to meet with the bishop later in the day.

Both Second Year and Fifth Year students asked a wide variety of thoughtful and insightful questions, covering topics such as faith, school life, leadership and the role of young people in today's world. Bishop Ger warmly engaged with the students and encouraged them to continue showing respect, kindness and care for others in all aspects of their lives.



Partnership with Primary Schools

CBS New Ross was delighted to welcome 5th Class students and staff from five local feeder primary schools for an engaging and exciting Subject Taster Day recently. The event provided young students with an opportunity to experience life at CBS New Ross while exploring a variety of subjects and activities across the school.



Students from Bunscoil Rís, St. Canice's, Educate Together, Horeswood and Cushinstown took part in the two-hour visit, which showcased the vibrant learning environment and strong sense of community within CBS. Over 20 primary school teachers and SNAs accompanied the pupils, helping to further strengthen the positive partnerships between CBS New Ross and its feeder schools.

A major highlight of the day was the involvement of 37 CBS students from 3rd Year, Transition Year and 5th Year, who played a key role in facilitating the activities alongside teachers. Their enthusiasm, leadership and welcoming attitude helped create a positive and enjoyable atmosphere for all visitors.

The event was a great success and reflected the strong community spirit within CBS New Ross. The school would like to thank all visiting students, teachers and SNAs for attending, as well as the CBS staff and students whose hard work and dedication made the day possible.





CBS New Ross Shines in Darkness Into Light 2026

Amber Flag Committee leads another successful year! For the second year in a row, Ms. Butler and the Amber Flag Committee took part in Darkness Into Light in New Ross. Students, staff, parents and members of the wider school community gathered together at 4.15am on 9th May 2026 to walk in support of suicide prevention and mental health awareness

In partnership with the local organisers in New Ross, warm refreshments and baked goods were hosted after the walk, creating a welcoming and supportive atmosphere for everyone involved.

Special thanks to parents Jagienka and Martin for their help on the night and to teacher Ms. Tighe for her support throughout the event. The school community is now very close to reaching its fundraising target of €1,000 for Pieta House. Well done to everyone involved in supporting such an important cause.

CBS takes part in ERI Youth Voices for Justice

On Wednesday, 13 May 2026, students from CBS New Ross proudly participated in the ERI Youth Voices for Justice Zoom Meet, joining ERI schools from across the world in a celebration of student leadership, justice, wellbeing and community action.



Representing CBS New Ross were members of our Amber Flag Committee along with students who participated in Darkness Into Light over the past two years. Throughout the event, students had the opportunity to connect with young

people from different countries, sharing ideas and learning about initiatives taking place in schools worldwide.

A special highlight for our students was seeing CBS New Ross featured in a showcase video celebrating the work of ER schools across the globe. Our school's commitment to Darkness Into Light and promoting positive mental health over the last two years was recognised internationally, highlighting the compassion, dedication and leadership shown by our students.

The event was a meaningful reminder of the importance of student voice, solidarity and supporting the wellbeing of others. Well done to MS Butler and all students involved who represented CBS New Ross with such pride and positivity.

“ It was amazing to see our work recognised on an international platform. It reminds us that even small actions can have a big impact. ”

– Amber Flag Committee Member

Creative Sounds: First Year Music in Action

First Year students recently explored the exciting world of graphic notation creating their own unique musical pieces and bringing them to life through performance. Instead of using traditional sheet music, students designed visual scores using shapes, lines, colours and symbols to represent different sounds and actions.

Working within small groups, they interpreted their graphic scores and performed them on a variety of percussion instruments. The classroom was filled with an imaginative range of rhythms, textures and dynamics as each group showcased their work.

This project not only introduced students to contemporary music techniques but also encouraged them to think outside the box, experiment with sound and express themselves in new ways. Well done to all who participated!



5th Year Biology Students Explore Ecology in Action

CBS New Ross biology students swap classrooms for fieldwork at Secret Valley Wildlife Park! On Wednesday 29th April, both 5th year biology classes from CBS New Ross embarked on an exciting ecology fieldwork trip to Secret Valley Wildlife Park and Exotic Animal Rescue in Clonroche, Co. Wexford. Accompanied by Ms Owens, Ms Morrissey and Mr Butler, the students had the opportunity to put their theoretical knowledge into practice in a real-world setting.



CBS New Ross Girls Dominate Leinster Camogie Blitz

Thursday, 23rd April 2025 was a day to remember for CBS New Ross as our girls took to the pitch at the magnificent SETU Carlow Sports Campus last Thursday and delivered a performance that left no doubt about their quality - winning all three of their games at the Leinster Camogie Blitz. The students were accompanied by Ms Delaney and Ms Owens.



CBS Athletes Impress at South Leinster Championships

CBS students enjoyed great success across two exciting days of athletics at the South Leinster Track and Field Championships in SETU Carlow.



Sports Day 2025



Our Sports Day in May was a very enjoyable experience for the whole school community. Organised by the PE Department, the programme offered something for everyone, ranging from three-legged races to a water obstacle course.

A penalty last person standing competition and sprint races followed before the students were treated to a tasty barbecue by our wonderful Parents' Council. The afternoon session began with what can only be described as an intensely competitive game of rounders between the teachers and students, with the teachers being victorious. Last up was the 5th Year V 6th Year Soccer Match and the 1st and 2nd Year Champions League Soccer Final being played. This was a hugely enjoyable day for all the teachers and students and one of everyone's highlights each year especially as it gives the school community the chance to come together in such a positive way.

2nd Year Adventure Summer Trip

2nd Years travelled to the IOAC in Tagoat on Thursday 14th May for their PE summer trip with their PE teachers. This trip supports their engagement with the adventure strand that they took part in during some of their PE classes this year. Students had great fun working together to build a raft with some unexpected dips in the lake occurring for some groups. They got a chance to play human archery and challenge their limits in a high ropes course. A fun and challenging way to end their school year.



TY Bake Off

On Thursday 30th April, our Transition Year students enjoyed a wonderful baking activity as part of their ongoing programme while we eagerly await the start of the construction of our new Home Economics room! The session provided students with an opportunity to develop practical culinary skills in a fun, relaxed and collaborative environment.

Students learned how to make traditional French-style crêpes from scratch, gaining hands-on experience in measuring ingredients, preparing batter, and cooking techniques. Once the crêpes were ready, students enjoyed choosing from a delicious variety of toppings, including fresh fruit, chocolate spreads, syrups and other sweet treats. The activity was thoroughly enjoyed by all, with plenty of smiles and excellent teamwork throughout the afternoon.

Activities such as these are an important part of the TY experience, helping students to build confidence, independence and valuable life skills outside the traditional classroom setting. Cooking and baking encourage creativity, organisation, communication and cooperation, while also promoting wellbeing and social interaction among students.

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to Ms Codd, our TY Coordinator, for organising and facilitating such an enjoyable and worthwhile activity for the students. Events like these continue to enrich the TY programme and create positive and memorable experiences for all involved.





Celebrating our Community in the Spirit of Edmund Rice

As we reflect on the many events and achievements highlighted in this edition of our newsletter, we are reminded once again of our Edmund Rice Schools Trust (ERST) Charter (available at this [link](#)) the key elements of which are:

- Nurturing faith, Christian spirituality and Gospel-based values
- Promoting partnership
- Excelling in teaching and learning
- Creating a caring school community
- Inspiring transformational leadership.

These principles continue to guide and shape daily life in CBS New Ross. They are not simply words on a page, but values lived out in our classrooms, on our sports fields, in our corridors and through the many activities that enrich school life.

As another school year draws to a close, we take this opportunity to reflect on the many successes, achievements and memorable moments shared across our school community throughout April and May. It has been a busy and rewarding period, with students participating in a wide range of academic, sporting, cultural and extra-curricular activities that continue to showcase the talent, dedication and spirit of CBS New Ross.

The values of kindness, respect, perseverance and service to others remain at the heart of everything we do as a school community. Inspired by the vision of Blessed Edmund Rice, our students continue to demonstrate leadership, resilience and a strong sense of community in all aspects of school life.

We are deeply grateful to our staff for their professionalism, generosity and unwavering commitment to supporting and encouraging our students each day. We also commend our students for their enthusiasm, positivity and willingness to embrace every opportunity presented to them. Together, staff and students ensure that the spirit and vision of Blessed Edmund Rice remain strong and vibrant within our school community.

If a student has an achievement, story or article that they or their parent/guardian would like to see included in a future newsletter, we warmly welcome your contributions. Sharing these moments allows us to continue celebrating the many ways our CBS New Ross community grows, learns and leads together.

As our Leaving Certificate and Junior Cycle students prepare to begin their State Examinations, we extend our very best wishes to them. We encourage all students to approach the weeks ahead with confidence and positivity, knowing that their hard work and efforts throughout the year have prepared them well.

We wish all members of our school community a safe, restful and enjoyable summer break and we thank everyone for their continued support throughout the academic year.



**Christian Brothers
School**
— New Ross —

Celebrating our Community
in the Spirit of Edmund Rice



Wishing Our
School Community



— a —
**Lovely
Summer!**

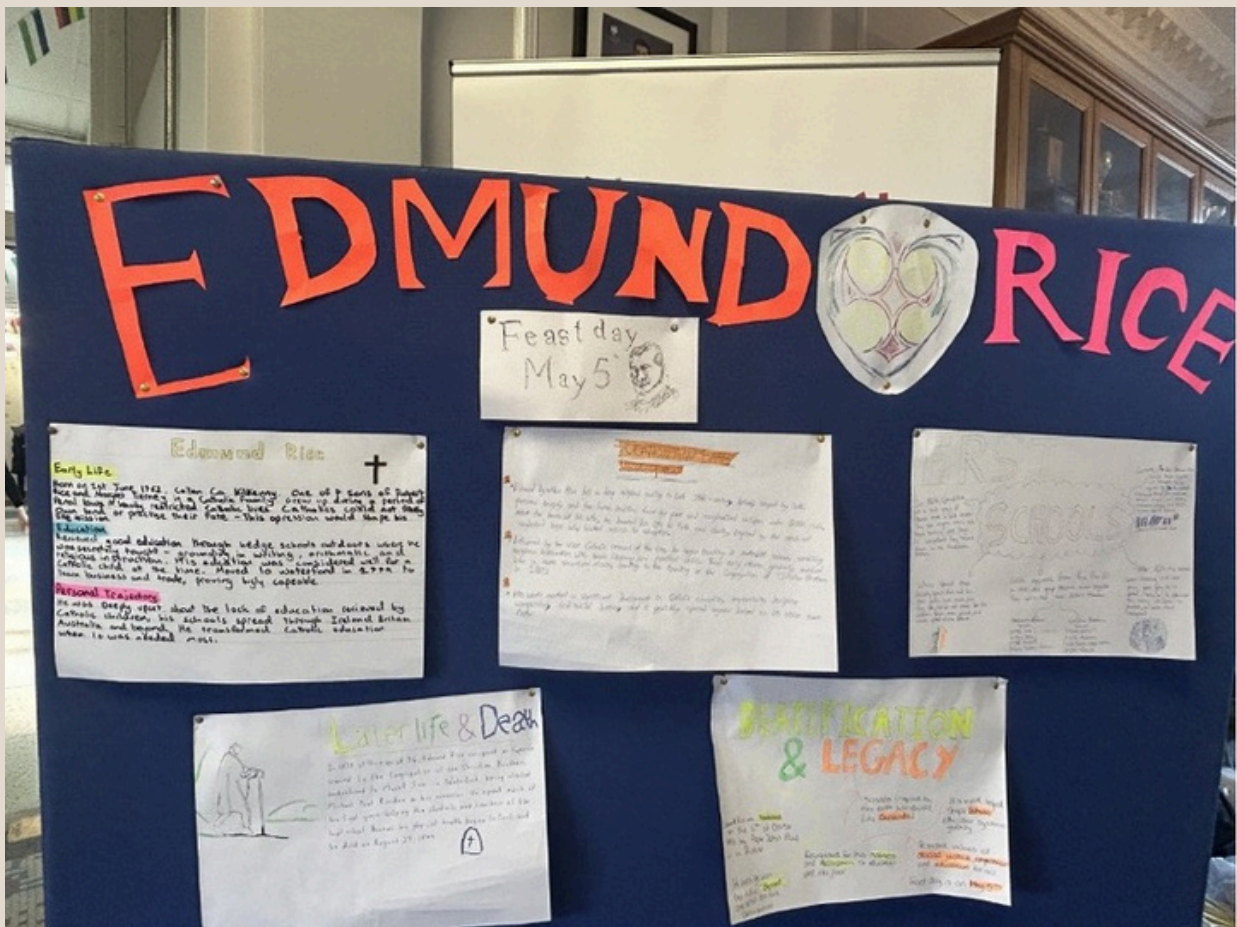


Thank you to all our students, staff,
families and partners for your
support and commitment
throughout the school year.

*Have a safe, happy
and restful summer!*



Oatlands College - Part 2



Blessed Edmund Rice Feast Day

As part of our celebration of Edmund Rice Feast Day, students and staff marked the occasion in a variety of meaningful ways throughout the school community. Daily prayer focused on the life, faith, and values of Edmund Rice, encouraging all of us to reflect on his commitment to justice, compassion, and education.

Students also joined the worldwide ERST online event, connecting with Edmund Rice schools and communities across the globe in a shared celebration of his legacy. In Religion classes, students learned more about the inspiring life and work of Edmund Rice and explored how his values continue to guide our school today. To further celebrate the occasion, students took part in poster competitions, creatively expressing themes connected to Edmund Rice's mission and spirit.

The Feast Day provided a wonderful opportunity for our school community to come together in prayer, learning, and celebration.





Oatlands College, Dublin Metro Final Champions

Oatlands College U19 football squad produced the most remarkable comeback in the school's memory to claim victory in the Dublin Metro Final against James Street CBS. 2-0 down and a man down after 20 minutes to a superb opposition display, our lads showed true grit to make it to half time 3-1 down.

Every single player on the pitch rose to the occasion, moved up a gear and put everything on the line for the shirt. They showed the character that embodies everything we ask for at Oatlands College - spirit, discipline, determination and a never say die attitude. Most importantly, we showed the skill and class that is found in winners. The lads ran out deserved 5-4 winners on the day.





Oatlands College TYs Working Together with Oatlands Primary School

Throughout the course of the year, students of class TY2 have been helping 1st class students in Oatlands Primary School with their reading. Every Friday from 11:30-12:30pm, the TY students would go to the primary school with their English teacher Ms. N O'Connor and work collaboratively with the 1st class students. The TY students had the opportunity to work with both 1st classes, reading with Ms. Dillon's class before the Christmas break and with Ms. O'Connell's class after. Each TY student would pair up with a 1st class student and help them with pace, pronunciation and tone while reading short texts. The TY students really enjoyed their time here. They had the opportunity to not only help with the reading but to also take part in the primary school community as well.





On Friday 20th March, during their reading session, the primary school was commemorating World Down Syndrome Day. Here the students wore different coloured socks but also took part in running 2 laps around the pitch for the day. Our TY students ran with the 1st class students and celebrated the day with them. This experience has given the TY students a chance to work with others in the Oatlands school community, and we thank Principal McDonagh and Oatlands Primary School for giving us this joyous opportunity.

Second Year Home Economics Trip

Directly following the Easter holidays 32 of our 2nd year Home Economics students embarked on a trip to Italy. We arrived in to Naples airport bright and early and went straight to Pompeii for a guided tour of the ancient sites. After an early start and a full day of sightseeing we were glad to arrive in our hotel in Sorrento in time for dinner.

Day two was another jam packed itinerary with visits to the local food market, an olive oil farm & factory, a lemon grove and coffee roastery. It was rounded off by a pizza making workshop for dinner. Day three saw the group go to Capri for the day; a boat tour around the island, some time in the various towns and then a visit to the beach before the ferry back to the mainland. The beach was definitely a highlight of the trip for many.

Our last day gave us some free time in Sorrento for final souvenir shopping and we all enjoyed the gelato making (and tasting) workshop before we headed back to the airport. Overall, a busy trip with a real opportunity for students to get a sense as to how food is produced and how it can add so much to the industry and economy of a local area.



Green Schools

The Green School's committee this year hasn't wavered in its goal of keeping the area clean. From the start of the year, the new influx of students joining have aided greatly in raising awareness within the school community. Signs, indicating proper bins to use, posters spreading the message of keeping the environment healthy.

Collaborating with Tidy Towns Galloping Green, the committee has made a substantial contribution to helping the environment. This was done predominantly through the means of litter picking. Additionally, the committee and Tidy Towns have planted flowers adding some more bloom to the area and helping the ecosystem.



Furthermore, Tidy Towns with the help of the committee plan to put up a sign that showed the historical significance of the area, including the area's Irish name, which is notably absent, this comes as an added benefit of Tidy Towns' and the committee's efforts.

The Green School's committee was able to achieve our goal of obtaining our biodiversity flag and the committee plans to maintain it.



IMTA Pi Competition

In March, Oatlands hosted the annual IMTA Pi Competition. We welcomed 11 schools and approximately 150 students for the event.

Our students performed exceptionally well, with Oatlands achieving 2nd place overall. Well done to our third year maths students on their outstanding achievement



Inclusivity Week

The week before Easter, Otlands College celebrated Inclusivity Week. This student council initiative was the result of extensive brainstorming, planning, and organisation, and it culminated in a week that was widely enjoyed by students and staff alike. Its success has led to hopes that it will become an annual event in the school calendar.





The week began with students arriving to a school building that had been completely transformed. Bunting decorated the ceilings throughout the school, posters highlighted the week's events, and colourful lighting helped create a sense of unity and togetherness across the entire school community.

Throughout the week, a range of events and workshops took place. First and second year students attended talks on neurodivergence, including a presentation from one of our senior students, who spoke openly and honestly about his own experience of being neurodivergent. His talk was extremely well received and widely praised by the first years.

Fifth year students participated in workshops delivered by ShoutOut focusing on LGBTQ+ inclusion. These sessions encouraged students to reflect on how Oatlands College can become even more inclusive and supportive in the years ahead.

The celebrations also extended to the canteen, where a variety of international dishes were served each day. Spice bags quickly became the standout favourite, and our hardworking canteen staff did a remarkable job keeping up with demand from the many enthusiastic students.

As an additional gesture of inclusion and celebration, the student council prepared bags of sweets for every member of the school community. Each bag included sweets representing some of the many countries and cultures present within our school. The week concluded with a Cultural Dress Up Day, where students were encouraged to wear clothing that represented their culture or a sports team they were involved with. Students embraced the occasion with tremendous enthusiasm and pride, and it was wonderful to see such a rich variety of cultures represented throughout the school. The celebrations finished with a whole-school quiz involving over 600 students participating together in a Blookit competition.

While there were prizes for both junior and senior students, the real success of the week was the atmosphere it created the smiles, laughter, and sense of community and inclusivity that filled the school as everyone headed off to enjoy their Easter break.



Waterpark College Waterford

Blessed Edmund Feast Day 5th May

This year, to celebrate Blessed Edmund Rice Day, we want to share the advocacy work that goes on here in Waterpark College. Our school mission is to create a more inclusive community that promotes justice for all. We would like to share with you what we think is the best of our giving spirit.



We celebrated our first Mass in the New School on 5th May with Fr. Tom. Our First-Year students ran the Mass, reading, playing and singing as part of our celebrations. A big thank you to Ms. Siobhán Cahill for preparing students.

Thanks also to Brothers Christie and John who joined us for the afternoon. It was lovely to have them with us to share and grow the spirit of Blessed Edmund Rice with our new students.

Our final grama goes to the CARA's who ran a challenging quiz for them at the end of the day. Top scores were 27/30 - an impressive achievement to show that students are excelling in teaching their peers while learning from others.

The Little Princess Trust

Our Fundraising day took place on the 13th February. If you're any bit superstitious then you'll know that Friday the 13th can be unlucky, but in our case this day was a great success. We raised over 600 Euro for this amazing charity, which provides beautiful wigs for children who are affected by alopecia or cancer-related hair loss.

To get everyone involved we wore purple which is the charity's colour and we had a crazy hair day. We also asked everyone to donate 2 Euro and our Caras went around class to class collecting the money. Thanks to our brilliant TY's, our posters and posts on- line got everyone in the spirit.

We would like to thank Mr. Tierney, Ms. Lanigan, the Caras and all others involved for organising this event. We are proud of you all for volunteering your time, money and effort!

Gaisce overnight trip to Graiguenamanagh

The Ty's who took part in the President's Award should be proud of the hours of service they participated in. Their last challenge was the overnight trip which this year Ms. Siobhán Cahill organised in Graiguenamanagh. Thanks to Charlie at Go with the Flow for 2 fantastic days on the river Barrow kayaking with the students.

We had the Scout Hall to ourselves and it was great to see the students cooking up a storm and feeding the multitudes. The talent show that night saw a lot of hidden talents emerge. We hope all our Awardees are taking time to celebrate this milestone in their lives and reflect on all you have achieved. Thanks to Mr. O'Liaghain and Ms. Mackey for making the visit possible.



Jersey Day

The spirit of Dillon Quirke was strong in the school on Friday 8th May when the whole school community turned out in their colours to contribute to the charity founded in his honour. The Foundation works to raise awareness of Sudden Adult Syndrome (SADS). Their mission is to protect young athletes and their families from the devastation of SADS. We, at Waterpark fully agree that every athlete has the right to be screened. What was very noticeable on the day was how many students who spoke about the use of the mobile screening equipment in their clubs when the Dillon Quirke Foundation visited the. Well done to all involved.



Susie's Help the Homeless

Closer to home, class 2A focused on local people who don't feel included in Irish society, in particularly the homeless who are those living below the breadline. Susie's charity is in Railway Square, and she provides breakfast, lunch and dinner to over 100 clients, some weekends.

As we know, Waterford city and county is experiencing a housing shortage for the marginalised with high demand for emergency accommodation and support for those facing homelessness, as highlighted by local services like Waterford Helping the Homeless.

Thanks to Sr. Kathryn for accompanying us and Susie and her helpers for letting us come into their kitchen and see what goes on first hand. Our few bags of non-perishables are hugely welcomed.



Foróige Supports Solas

It was a great year of fun filled and activities for our First-Year students who are Foróige members. But it's not all fun and games, they run very important fundraisers for our local charities, especially SVP and Solas. They played a blinder this week, baking cakes and buying each other's treats. It was a sight to behold. Thanks to Mr. McLoughlin for getting this much needed event up and going. We have the ended the year in a fitting way, giving generously to others.

We are looking forward to our end of year celebrations with our Graduation Mass and awards night in St. Benildus , shortly. It's a challenging time for all students as they face exams but especially we keep or Leaving Cert students and our Third Years in our thoughts and prayers. We would like to wish you all a safe and happy Summer, go néirí libh.



JP2 Pilgrimage to Medjugorje

This academic year saw nearly 20 students sign up to the John Paul 2 award to serve their parish and community in Waterford. Students were engaged in activities at Mass where they welcomed people and read, ran Parish Coffee Mornings, gave IT support to parishioners, participated in Drug Awareness training etc.

They also volunteered with their communities, some people worked in charity shops, youth clubs, nursing homes and stage schools. There was parish and community work that needed to be undertaken by the students for at least an hour each week.

This worthwhile award teaches students humility, patience and gratefulness.

Throughout the JP2 Programme, 2 students availed of the opportunity to go on a pilgrimage to Medjugorje in Bosnia, where they had lots of faith filled fun!

A big thanks to Bishop Phonsie Fr. Tom Rogers, Fr. Liam Power, Fr. P. J, Sr. Kathryn, Federika, Nora, Margaret, Olivia and Nodlaig for giving us this wonderful opportunity to serve in our parishes and communities.

The students have nothing but praise about the award and would 100% recommend it to younger years in the future.



French visitors from Marseille



Easter Wellbeing Winners
What I love about Ireland - Poetry Competition



Blessed Edmund Rice Quiz Winners



Emmet Cusack - a world and double European karate gold medalist



Martha and Susie organise a Garda Safety Talk